

R E Y N O L D S
G A L L E R Y



Whispered Conversations

by Reni Gower

Stemming from a modernist-inspired tradition, Chris Gregson's paintings are multi-faceted abstractions based on line, shape, and color. Uniquely his own, but rich with reference; we can glimpse connections and hear whispered conversations between a wide range of inspirational artists. Listening in, we are reminded of the congealed color of Hans Hofmann...the textural collage of Kurt Schwitters...the swollen forms of Joan Miró...and the mystical iconography of Arthur Dove...as well as the animated domesticity of Elizabeth Murray...the narrative pictographs of Adolph Gottlieb...or the dense layering of Thomas Nozkowski.

For Gregson, mark making through the process of painting, rather than representational illusion, has always been the main focus of his practice. To this end, he paints with oil on several groups of small panels simultaneously, interchangeably and intuitively until he discovers the ideal construct or strikes the perfect visual chord. His earlier training in theater at the New York Studio and Forum of Stage Design under Lester Polakov plays out in his studio. By "setting the stage" with gridded or linear installations, he expertly orchestrates finely tuned interactions through playful combinations of the individual parts. Like a room filled with works by Mark Rothko, where each piece elicits a reaction or response to another, Gregson's composite works are quiet and quirky conversations long remembered in the mind's eye.

Reni Gower is a Professor in the Painting and Printmaking Department at Virginia Commonwealth University. She is also the curator of several award winning traveling exhibitions including Papercuts and The Divas and Iron Chefs of Encaustic.