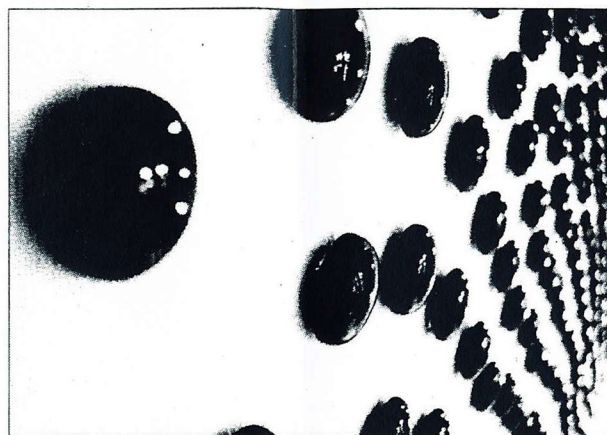
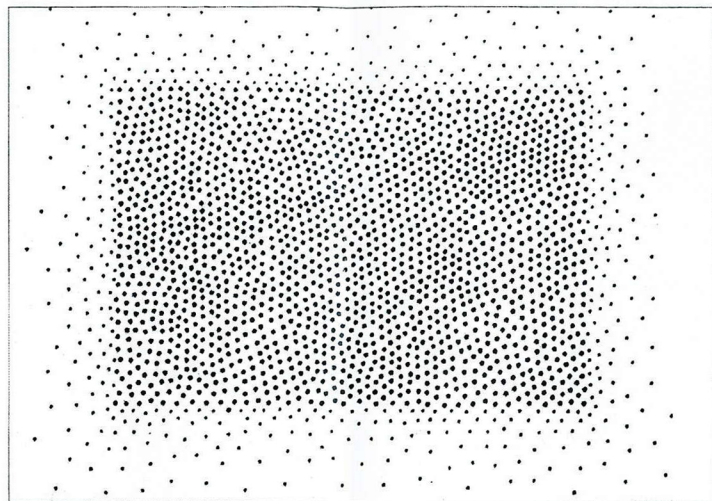


Style

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Galleries

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LEHMANN MAUPIN GALLERY PHOTOS

Playing with perception: "Projection Screen (Black Onyx)," left and above (detail), part of the Teresita Fernández show at Richmond's Reynolds Gallery.

Teresita Fernández At Reynolds Gallery

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of Reynolds Gallery — probably Richmond's toniest art dealership, which boasts a roster of artists I wish Washington galleries would show — owner Bev Reynolds hosts the cerebral, formalist work of New York City-based artist Teresita Fernández. Reynolds invited Fernández because of the artist's links to Richmond; she's a 1992 graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University's top-flight MFA program in sculpture. Fernández now shows at Chelsea's Lehmann Maupin and received a MacArthur "genius" grant three years ago.

Like sculptor Tara Donovan, another VCU grad who has done well, Fernández stresses formal and intellectual concerns using simple materials.

The show's guiding image is the elongated rectangle of the movie screen. Most pieces here include the form, whether in delicate drawings or abstract wall-hung works. Each time it appears, it arrives with a different set of connotations, serving both as the show's ballast and its source of variation.

The 8½-foot-wide wall piece "Projection Screen (Black Onyx)" plays with perception in a manner reminiscent of light artist James Turrell. From afar we see a hovering rectangle. Up close the work dissolves into a series of onyx discs attached to the wall. As we move around the gallery, we become aware of our perception changing as we move in relation to the art.

Elsewhere in the show hang a series of ink and graphite drawings on Mylar that take the shape of tiny movie screens. Mounted in large white frames, the images hover unmoored like flickering hallucinations. Another series finds the screen shape on wall-hung marble slabs that glow like the movie screen photographs of Hiroshi Sugimoto (seen at the Hirshhorn two years ago). The form is nostalgic, but the material recalls ancient statuary, suggesting that the screens are relics, too.

Teresita Fernández at Reynolds Gallery, 1514 Main St., Richmond, Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 804-355-6553, to March 1; www.reynoldsgallery.com.