

Flash Art

ALLISON MILLER

ACME. - LOS ANGELES



Allison Miller's exhibition at ACME. embraces transformation as a vital and uncompromising force. The new paintings, oil and acrylic on canvas, are "complicated" in the very best sense of the word as each builds upon

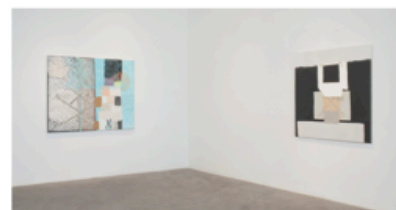
a rich and complex visual trajectory.

Dipych (2011) exemplifies Miller's use of patterning almost as if it were a linguistic device. Here what appears to be a scrim of patterned lines breaks away, extending beyond the boundary between the two distinct sections of the painting. It's almost as if a private dialogue were overheard, the right side "listening in" even as the left side encroaches further into the body of the other. Other works like the enigmatic *Elephant* (2011) suggest the presence through shape and line of some sort of living being — a highly subjective perception as the central ground in the painting gives way to absence. The white, empty space carries the work and gives it substantive power while, within the black hemispheres at the top and bottom of the picture plane, the patterning takes on the repetition of language and frame the white space in the center; strange shapes emerge like cells in the human body, communing in their own private floating universe. Other works posit a clearer and more comprehensive communication as in the luminous *Actor* (2011) where the squares strangely duplicate each other, one

seemingly growing out from another. The title itself suggests its own linguistic paradigm as the squares mimic one another yet stand as separate units all their own. Again the background breaks into the central image, which creates another disruption not only of the literal space of the image itself, but also of the narrative implied between the two shapes.

Are we standing witness to a love affair with the self or is this an out-of-body experience? Either way, Miller's images impose themselves gracefully and with tremendous power.

Eve Wood



Above: ALLISON MILLER. Installation view at ACME, Los Angeles, 2011. Left: ALLISON MILLER, *Elephant*, 2011. Oil, acrylic and gesso on canvas, 74 x 66 cm. Courtesy the artist and ACME, Los Angeles.