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timesunion.com

Artists Explore Patterns

Patterns – some distinct, some less so – common theme of artists at Collar Works

By Amy Griffin

July 16, 2014



Omar Chacon, *Bacanal Muttata*, 2012,
Acrylic on canvas, 10 x 16 inches

In his recent television series, "Cosmos," astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson discussed the human talent for pattern recognition as a double-edged sword. "We're especially good at finding patterns, even when they aren't there," he said, explaining that this helps us make sense of the world. It's the same thing that drives creativity. In the current show at Troy's Collar Works Gallery, four artists explore patterns through painting and drawing. "Discernible Regularities," which includes **Omar Chacon**, Amanda Kates, Fernando Orellana and Kenny Rivero, is a sample of

the distinctive ways artists might approach patterning, as well as color.

...The only purely abstract work in the show comes from **Omar Chacon**. Though he uses paint and they're on canvas, these are unlike any paintings you've seen. He creates them by dripping acrylic paint in various colors and shapes onto wax paper. When it dries, it creates a colored plastic shape that can be peeled off the paper and affixed to the canvas.

This process results in thickly layered and textured objects. The fact that he uses canvas when he could apply these paint drips to just about any surface seems significant—these are definitely paintings. The patterns created in some recall patterns found in nature — water rippling, for instance. Still others are reminiscent of textile work.

This is the second show in Collar Works' new smaller, brighter space on the ground floor of the former Trojan Hardware building. In the five years since its inception, the gallery has steadily showcased fresh, interesting contemporary art from emerging and established artists from the region and beyond. It's nice to see that hasn't changed with the new location.

Amy Griffin is a frequent contributor to the Times Union. You can reach her at Amylgriffin@earthlink.net

If you go: "Discernible Regularities", Collar Works, 137 Fourth St., Troy.
When: Through July 27; 1 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and by appointment.