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ARTNEWS

The Market 'Just Absorbs' Works by Teo González

By Daniel Grant

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"Untitled #364"
Acrylic on Canvas 24" x 24", 2005

NEW YORK—Within the past year, paintings by **Teo Gonzalez** have entered the collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, New York's Museum of Modern Art and the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Martin Irvine, the owner of Irvine Contemporary Art, Washington, D.C., one of several galleries that represent Gonzalez's art on a regional basis, says collectors have been snapping up his acrylic polymer paintings on paper and canvas as well as his lithographs. The artist, 41, who was born in Spain and presently lives and works in Brooklyn, creates geometric arrangements on a monochrome background in a minimalist style.

Last May the gallery exhibited 10 paintings on canvas and several others on paper, selling 80 percent of the works on offer, all to private collectors, Irvine notes. Canvas paintings (some as small as 2-foot-square, others reaching 8-foot-square) are priced from \$3,800/10,000, while paintings on paper sell for \$2,500/3,000. The artist has worked larger on paper, sometimes producing 72-by-72-inch pieces priced as high as \$10,000. Gonzalez has also made editions of lithographs—small works in edition sizes of 10 or 15—that sell for \$600/900 each. To date there have been no reported sales of his works on the secondary market.

He is a relatively prolific artist, producing "three full bodies of work a year," reports San Francisco gallerist Brian Gross, who discovered Gonzalez "at a very obscure group show in neighboring Oakland" in 1995 and has been representing him ever since. Brian Gross Fine Art exhibited the artist's work this past February and March, selling half of the dozen pictures on display "during the show—and we're just about out of works now," says Gross. "That's the general time frame for Teo. The market just absorbs his work."

Pictures by Gonzalez have been shown periodically in Manhattan galleries, most recently in a group summer exhibit, entitled "Repeat Performance," at Anthony Grant, Inc. (through Sept. 17). The artist has maintained longer-term relationships with Irvine Contemporary Art; the Richard Levy Gallery, Albuquerque, N.Mex.; the Roy Boyd Gallery, Chicago; and Brian Gross Fine Art. Irvine told ARTnewsletter that next year he plans to open a New York gallery, where Gonzalez's work will be displayed.