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"Jeff Elrod @ Pat Hearn Gallery"
NY Arts.
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NY ARTS

Jeff Elrod @ Pat Hearn Gallery

Bold and visually powerful, Jeff Elrod's abstract analogue paintings operate in the contradictory vernacular of a hand-crafted medium ensconced in a rapidly dematerializing digital culture. Elrod creates obtuse images that get right in your face with their frontality, only to diffract into layers of meaning, inviting you to investigate their subtleties. Using hard-edged, taped paint application to signify fluid brush strokes, Elrod creates compositional puns and double entendres to scrutinize the codes that constitute meaning and perception (for example, his brush strokes are actually unpainted negative spaces, absent zones that connote presence). Many of Elrod's images result from riffing on everything from Matisse to old-school punk songs to genetic engineering. A painting might use the repetition of an obsessively repeated "painterly" motif to evoke both the repetitious 3-chord structure of a Dead Kennedys song and the Frankensteinian notions of genetic transcription and mass cloning. Decoding the witty juxtaposition of elements such as punk rock & DNA hacking, and tangibility vs. virtuality is only one of many reasons to check out the paintings and wall works in this show.

Jason Hoelscher

