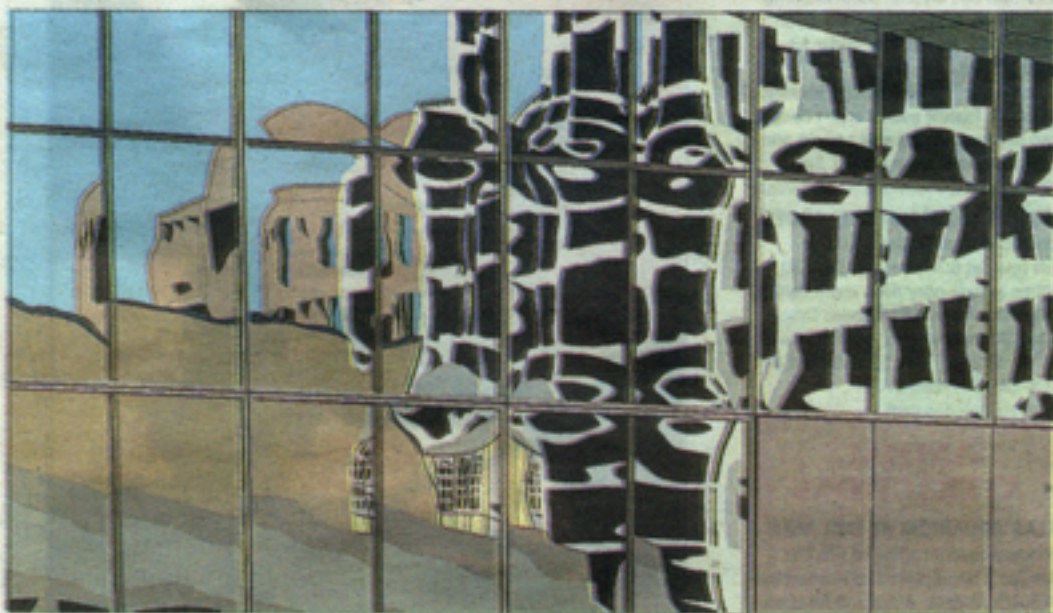


Art

Tommy Fitzpatrick at Holly Johnson



Liquidity (2006); acrylic on canvas

Dallas native Tommy Fitzpatrick says that while growing up, he thought that his hometown's skyscrapers were the city's biggest tangible asset. As a grown-up Yale-trained painter and collegiate art instructor, Mr. Fitzpatrick hasn't changed his mind, though his artistic fascination with modern corporate structures blossomed several years ago in another Texas city with more than its share of tall, shiny landmarks: Houston. Now based in Arlington and an assistant professor of art at Tarrant County College, Mr. Fitzpatrick, 37, has turned his painterly attention to some of this area's glitziest buildings. Some recent results are on display at Holly Johnson Gallery. He doesn't quaintly render from just any vantage point; he uses the expansive panels of glass on structures such as Fountain

Place and Bank of America Plaza in Dallas and various Trinity Bluff commercial developments in Fort Worth as reflective fields that warp each building's surroundings like a carnival fun-house mirror. He works from photographs, using copious lengths of masking tape to segment his large, hyperrealist views, which substitute windowpane frames for horizon lines and amplify colors and contrast for effect. The resulting paintings are part abstraction study, part architectural commentary and part circus sideshow that can simultaneously tempt wonder and turn stomachs.

Mike Daniel

"Facade" is on display through Sept. 9 at Holly Johnson Gallery, 1411 Dragon St. Hours: Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 214-369-0169. www.hollyjohnsongallery.com.
▶ Free.

BEST BETS

ART

DALLAS CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART Exhibits include "Summer Show/Critic's Choice," annual open membership show with outstanding juried selections; "Mix! Series" exhibit of photos by Mimi Kato; "Hallworks" exhibit with assemblage art & video by David Witherspoon; & "3D on Swiss" outdoor exhibit with sculpture & performance art by Jimmy Kuehnle. All shows thru Aug. 19. 2801 Swiss. Tue-Sat 10-5. 214-821-2522. www.thecontemporary.net.

GERALD PETERS "Gerald Peters Modern," 20th-anniversary exhibit with more than 30 works by internationally known 20th-century artists. Thru Sept. 23. 2913 Fairmount. Mon-Sat 10-5 & by appointment. 214-969-9410. www.gpgallerydallas.com.

HOLLY JOHNSON "Facade," new architectural paintings by Tommy Fitzpatrick. Thru Sept. 9. 1411 Dragon St. Tue-Sat 10-5. 214-369-0169. www.hollyjohnsongallery.com.