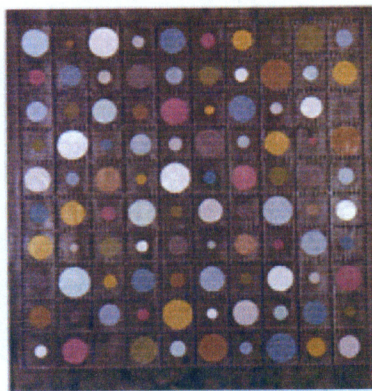


Christopher French

DEVIN BORDEN HIRAM BUTLER

Houston

Christopher French, who exhibits internationally, moved to Houston from Washington, D.C., three years ago. This exhibition of eight beguiling works on paper constituted his first solo show in Texas. (French also works with video and photography, and writes for this magazine.)



Christopher French,
*Base 10 (Silver-grey
ground)*, 2003, oil
and acrylic on braille
paper, 11½" x 11".
Devin Borden Hiram
Butler.

Using acrylics and oils, he painted 10 circles in 10 different hues and sizes in the 100 squares of the 10-by-10-inch grid imprinted on braille paper. The dots rest against different-colored backgrounds, ranging from Naples yellow and silver-gray, to blue and purple. The underlying grids appear beneath the paint, creating a mesmerizing dialogue between circle and square.

In spite of their systematic geometric refinement, the works are surprisingly diverse, and recall the work of Bauhaus masters such as Josef Albers. In *Base 10 (silver-grey ground)*, circles of muted pastel colors and white appear to float gently above the silvery paper surface. In contrast, *Base 10 (purple ground)* features pastel circles juxtaposed with boisterous red ones, the crimson orbs creating a vibrant sense of movement. Particularly moody compared with those bubblier works, *Base 10 (blue ground)* combines a deep blue background with circles of tangerine, aqua, yellow, black, and white, establishing a spiral pattern that suggests a Moorish arabesque.

—Catherine D. Ansporn