

New City Art

Review: Todd Chilton at Tony Write Gallery

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Todd Chilton's paintings offer a broken geometry rendered in a handmade manner. Drips escape certain strokes and imperfections allow the composition to shift slightly. The canvases are variations on repeating geometric (almost fractal) patterns, emanating from the center but bound to and by the edges. Paintings such as "Untitled (blue diamonds)" have a shallow crystalline topography that the perceptual properties of color serve to deepen and heighten. These structures grow more intricate and exaggerated in his canvases from 2009. Chilton's color is often optically charged as in his zebra-striped canvases where the boundary between the striped regions form an optical illusion. With Chilton's canvases you can feel yourself looking, and you can see Chilton's hand in painting. The result is a tenuous exchange between the painting and the viewer that never quite fully assembles into a concrete meaning.