

ACME.

Los Angeles Times

By SUSAN KANDEL
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1996

No Way Out: Yunhee Min's installation at ACME Gallery feels remarkably authoritative, like a declarative sentence, a technological imperative or a traffic chart. Min has painted three walls of the gallery with yellow and red horizontal stripes of varying thicknesses. It's sort of like being inside a Modernist painting, one that knows what it wants to say and does so with equal parts cool and brio.

Yet it isn't precisely this, because the field Min creates is not continuous but broken in the middle by a doorway. No matter, though: The effect is of no way out.

If Sol LeWitt's luscious wall paintings respond to an audience's desire to be overwhelmed, Min offers the paradox of generosity. Her work is vast, but it is less enveloping than aggressive.

This is due in no small part to that nasty red and that bilious yellow, both of which happen to be "mistints"—specially mixed shades of paint that nobody wanted in the end. As with Daniel Buren's regulation striped fields, the point is not aesthetic reverie; it is instead to mark off your territory.

■ *ACME Gallery, 1800 B Berkeley St., Santa Monica, (310) 264-5818, through April 13. Closed Sundays and Mondays.*