

Happily Enduring Vertigo Amid Min's Mix of Colors

Art Reviews

By LEAH OLLMAN
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

As eye candy, Yunhee Min's new paintings at Acme have a decidedly piquant appeal. They cater to the appetite for intense color but tweak conditions just enough to make for a deliciously destabilizing experience.

Each of the five works in the show follows the same format, bearing four broad, vertical stripes on a canvas that is just slightly off square, its edges raked to form a rhombus. The young L.A. painter relishes deviations from the norm and has, throughout her other installation work and paintings, gravitated toward colors that have been custom-mixed at a store but rejected.

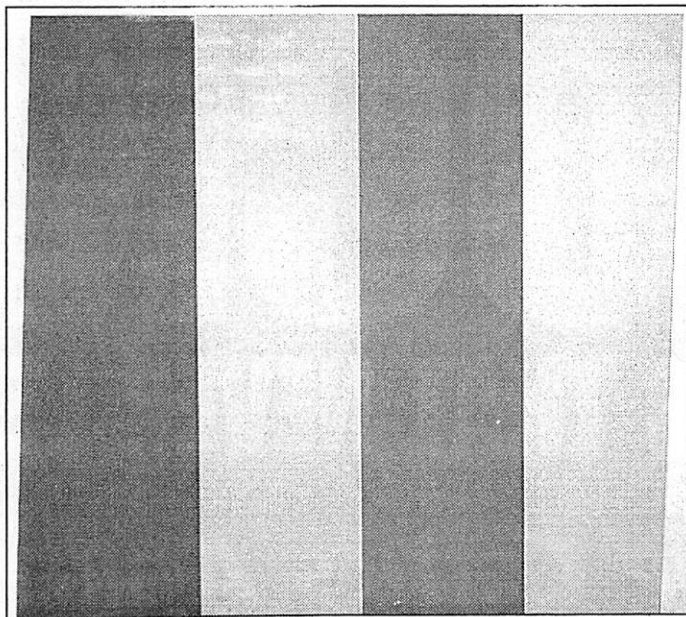
Painted with a matte finish, the colors seem drab in general, a bit chalky, but gradually they reveal idiosyncratic personalities and, together, quirky group dynamics.

One painting sets taupe next to tangerine, which borders a band of lilac next to a final stripe the color of brick. In another, olive neighbors beige, persimmon and sunflower. The juxtapositions can get tart, and sometimes the eye can hardly settle on the juncture between two hues because of the friction emanating there.

One painting, "Just Like Honey," buzzes in its entirety, with stripes of white, celery, pale and lemon yellow seeming to jockey for planar positions, advancing and receding in a spunky rhythm.

Scaled roughly to human height, the paintings induce a low-level vertigo with their leaning, angled sides. Min (whose work is also on view in the show "Shimmer" at the L.A. Municipal Art Gallery in Barnsdall Art Park through March 26) teases the point home with titles like "The Man Who Fell to Earth" and "Terra Firma." Her work's most refreshing quality is its sense of humor, the willful crookedness with which she reinterprets the otherwise sober conventions of Minimalism.

• Acme, 6150 Wilshire Blvd., (323) 857-5942, through March 11. Closed Sundays and Mondays.



Acme Gallery

Yunhee Min's intentionally crooked acrylic "Terra Firma #1."