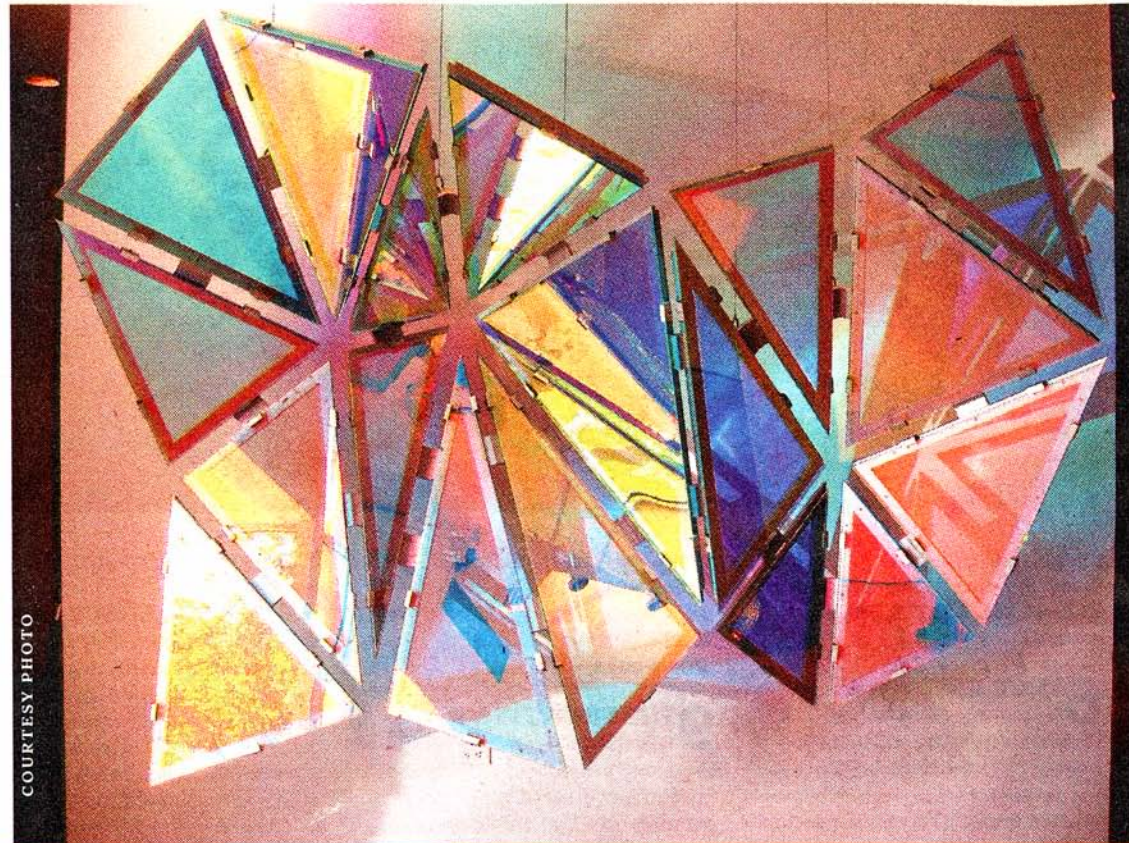


**CHRISTIAN ECKART: THE ABSURD VEHICLE AND OTHER PROPOSITIONS**

Eckart, who has participated in and co-curated group exhibitions exploring the relationship between contemporary art and religion, creates works that blur the boundaries between painting, sculpture and installation while evoking the experience of the sublime within a post-modern context. We're not talking handmade altarpieces; Eckart has his works industrially fabricated using high-finish materials aluminum, steel, automotive lacquer and dichroic glass. The show's most ravishing piece, a hanging painting-sculpture hybrid, reflects shards of the gallery's interior and exterior in a 3-D field of triangular planes. It calls to mind both Larry Bell's perfect 1960s glass cubes and Carlos Cruz-Diez' kinetic works that change along with viewers' physical relationship to them. But it's more than the sum of its associations. **when** Through March 5; **where** McClain Gallery, 2242 Richmond; **info** 713-520-9988.

**THOMAS GLASSFORD: PTERIDOMANIA**

The Laredo-born, Mexico City-based Thomas Glassford presents works inspired by the Victorian era's "fern fever," when botanists and amateur collectors searched the world for



COURTESY PHOTO

**CHRISTIAN ECKART: THE ABSURD VEHICLE AND OTHER PROPOSITIONS** ON DISPLAY AT McCLAIN GALLERY