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ARTnews

Donald Baechler

Baldwin Gallery

Aspen

Incorporating 33 of Donald Baechler's paintings, collages, and sculptures from 2006 to the present, this three-room show was a surprisingly large survey of the ever-active New York artist's recent work. The pieces all possessed his signature bold simplicity and focused on emblems such as smiley faces, ice-cream cones, and flowers, rendered with careful craftsmanship and an almost syrupy cheerfulness.

In a group of eight 52-by-40-inch collages, a bright, loosely painted central icon was set against overlapping pieces of found imagery. *Black Flower* (2012), for example, features a giant tulip emerging from a busy background of vintage fliers and polka dots on newsprint. Similarly



Donald Baechler, *Black Flower*, 2012, gesso, flashe, and paper collage on paper, 52" x 40".

Baldwin Gallery.

random yet appealing juxtapositions could be seen in Baechler's paintings, such as *Colorful Ball* (2010), which has an upbeat, playful charm. This 5-foot-square canvas presented a multicolored soccer ball surrounded by dozens of layered, pastel-hued circles and squares.

In the 1990s, Baechler began making sculptures, and a recent suite of ten cast-bronze works were also featured in the show. Displayed throughout the galleries, they all depict roses, tulips, or daisies gathered in groups or on their own. They tend to have a flattened, cut-out look and lumpy surfaces, offering an original take on a classic subject.

— Kyle MacMillan