

# ARTnews

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...dhist temple, and a  
; offering, "Installa-  
...and Linda Orloff,"  
...graphy into mixed-  
...y the Danish-born  
...nd faces floating in  
...ed on the floor. As  
...left a crusty residue  
...ion of figures swim-  
...gravure" presented

16" x 20".  
FotoFest 2000.

## Christian Eckart

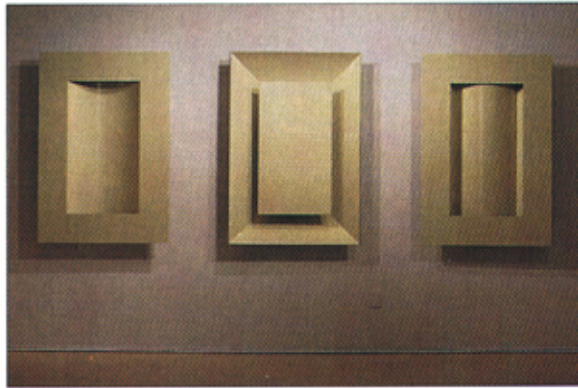
ROBERT McCLAIN

Houston

In lieu of traditional religious symbolism, Christian Eckart draws on the language of abstraction to create a new spiritual iconography. The minimalist constructions presented here consisted of painted convex and concave aluminum surfaces mounted on the gallery's walls. The artist replaces the characteristic drama of Renaissance narrative paintings with bold, virile abstractions, and monochromes in exquisite hues—from red and dark purple to ivory, cham-

pagne, and green. Depending on lighting, angle, and the perspective of the viewing eye, streaks and streams of acrylic below the high gloss surface produce different effects of shifting colors.

Eckart, who also works in stripes, presented an especially powerful work here, *Sacra Conversazione*. Its title referring to Renaissance depictions of the Madonna with Child and saints, the piece consists of four vertical stripes of yellow, green, red, and



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Christian Eckart,  
"Monochrome  
Paintings," 2000,  
acrylic urethane  
lacquer on aluminum,  
installation view.  
Robert McClain.

beige. Also included in the show was "Zootropes," a series of small panels with expressive holes cut through the aluminum surfaces. The artist relates the holes to the upturned eyes in Zurbarán's portraits of saints. An excess of interpretation, however, can deflect attention from the enjoyment of the radiant objects themselves.

—Ileana Marcoulesco