

ART REVIEWS; A Language of Color Tells the Tale of the Atomic Bomb

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'Linda Jean Fisher: Order and Chaos'

Chappaqua Library Gallery, 195 South Greeley Avenue, Chappaqua, (914) 238-4779. Through Dec. 4.

In this show, Ms. Fisher takes her fascination with color, sense of humor and appetite for information, and blends them together to create a series of lyrical paintings. The pieces tell a narrative, the story of the development of the atomic bomb. In the hands of this artist, it all makes aesthetic sense.

To Ms. Fisher, color is almost a language, which she uses to interpret her reading about the bomb. Her main inspiration for the last two-thirds of the series is "The Day of Trinity" by Lansing Lamont.

The earliest paintings in the series, like "Paint Out Loud No.1," show a keen and unflinching sense of structure and order. In "I[10-31-2003]," a slightly later work, she begins building her narrative. In this painting, the viewer begins to sense that she is making correlations between certain colors, yellow and brown, and specific events.

Later on, in "IX [11-16-2003]" and "XVI [11-28-2003]," there are more explicit references to the inner workings of the atom, with diagrams, numbers and letters added.

In "XIX [12-4-2003]" and "Got a Match? [12-4-2003]." we begin to see a quirky sense of humor emerging. The main form of "Got a Match?" is based on a diagram of the trigger mechanism in a fission bomb. With its brown and orange colors, it resembles a 1960's cigarette advertisement.

On the piece, Ms. Fisher painted the words, "got a match?" In a brief conversation with the artist, she said this referred to another, far less sinister bomb, the kind you might see in a cartoon, one that is black and round, and needs a lighted match to explode.

In "XXX [12-26-2003]," Ms. Fisher takes a diagram of a nuclear chain reaction and turns it into something reminiscent of the animation behind the credits of a 1960's Doris Day-era movie -- playful, colorful and benign.

Don't miss this show.