

Briana Roesler  
*Undergraduate Student*

My paintings translate familiar urban environments into non-representational arrangements based on perceived colors at a particular location. The paintings employ horizontal bands of color to represent these urban environments as abstracted compositions. At first glance, these strips of color might appear visually ambiguous, but are in fact meticulously researched.

I choose my locations based on my place of origin, Saint Paul, Minnesota, and the ritualistic act of traveling to and through this place. Important locations such as my elementary and high schools, a restaurant in which I worked for several years, and the view from my front porch are the subjects of my paintings. Before I transfer digital photographs into Adobe Illustrator to create final compositions, I revisit these select locations in an effort to collect experiential information that memory alone cannot invoke. I respond to, and document, these experiences (“revisitations”) of nostalgia, with written notations and drawings as a precursor to the final compositions.

My observations influence my color choices as well as the width of the bands of color, which are based off of the percentage of the color in the place. Adobe Illustrator assists me in mapping out compositions. My knowledge of color theory guides my formal choices; for example, using narrow panels that mimic the horizon line and draw the viewer closer to investigate the surface. Precision is tremendously important in my work; however, I do not want to completely erase the evidence of the artist’s hand. This speaks to the contrast of the architecture and the feeling of nostalgia. Thus, I use a painted surface as a way to reconnect with the locations I chose, creating an intimate experience with the painting that will expose the emotional response to each place.

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Each painting is a separate piece and meant to be experienced individually. It is my hope that the series as a whole creates a sense of place. The paintings are wrapped around the edges of the panels, turning these into 3-dimensional objects that suggest space. The panels are kept small, which translate the proportions of the photographs, speaking to memory, nostalgia, and documentation. Combined, these elements speak to the importance of the locations and the emotions felt when returning to these specific places by transforming these works into intimate objects. The work is titled with the geographical coordinates. This gives enough information for the viewer to know these are specific places, but leaves it open to personal interpretation based on the perceived ambiguity of the composition. The series reconnects me to the locations and invites me to experience these places with fresh eyes, while continuing to hold onto the familiar emotional response.

44°56'44.18"N 93°10'01.83"W, 2009

207

Acrylic on panel, 1" x 4" x 24"



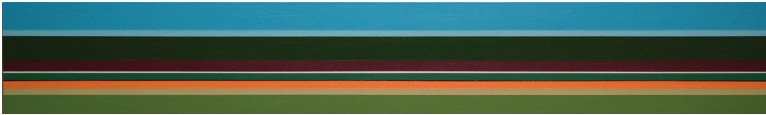
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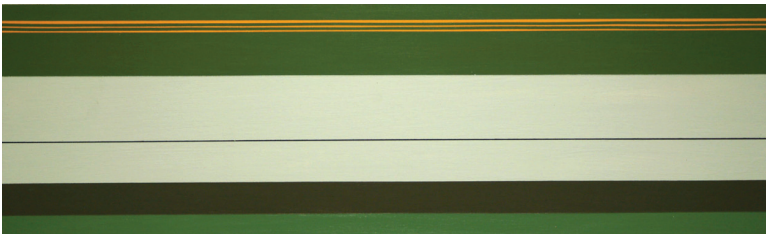
44°55'30.58"N 93°09'26.64"W, 2009

Acrylic on panel, 1" x 8" x 24"



44°57'09.45"N 93°11'03.23"W, 2009

Acrylic on panel, 1" x 4" x 24"



44°56'38.88"N 93°10'49.33"W, 2009

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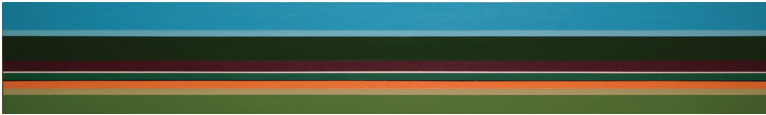
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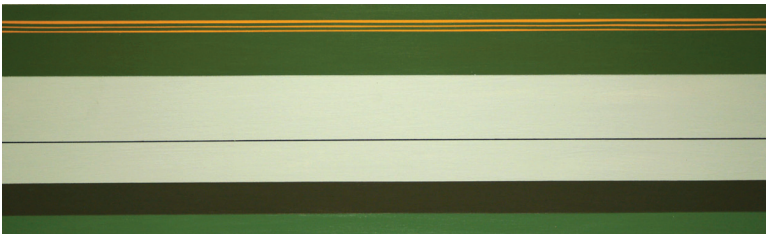
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