For years Barbara Kerwin has been a maverick manufacturer of the most sensuous, skin-like abstract paintings in Los Angeles. But instead of falling into a touchy-feely trap, Kerwin posits her textures in rigid geometric patterns. The effect is a soothing, cool humanism--rare in this genre still dominated by the Soviet-like sensibilities of Kasimir Malevich.

Barbara Kerwin’s exhibition of elegant and coolly formal abstractions opened recently in Santa Monica. In her earlier work Barbara used a more static grid format that was mostly powered by her lush use of encaustic paint and her sophisticated palette. In her more recent paintings however she employs a shifting grid format that allows for her strengths but creates a more dynamic and at the same time more playful outcome.

May 3, 2008

Barbara Kerwin’s work has gone from the sculpturally minimal to a take on the grid and it’s potential. She works in encaustic, now adding acrylic and it’s flat opacity, for a more complex visual give and take. The wax rests in relief on the surface almost quivering there in it’s armature. This is sensitive, poetic stuff that one should expect from an artist of her stature. Mark Zimmerman

...it looks stunning. -Peter Frank
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June 4, Wed., 5 to 6:30 p.m. in Campus Center (CC) 6

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CBEST: Reading and Writing
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June 13, Fri., 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in CC 1

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MEMORIAL DAY INVOCATION

Recognized for their outstanding contribution to the Veteran Affairs Program were Michael Mondragón, Santos Ernesto Avalo-Sanchez, Jessica García-Hernández and Javier Toledo (left to right).