

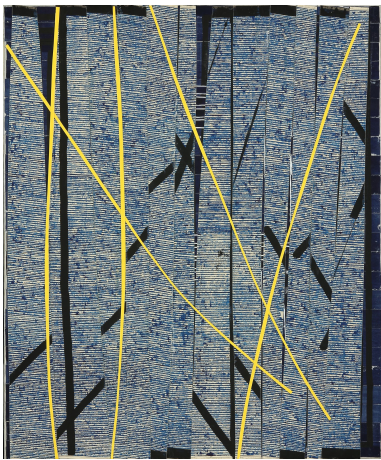
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Shaun O'Dell

Susan Inglett Gallery

522 W. 24th St., (212) 647-9111

Through Feb. 9



Mr. O'Dell (b. 1968) lives and works in San Francisco. He teaches at the University of California, Berkeley, and the California College of the Arts, is also a jazz musician, and describes his working process as "stochastic," or involving chance. These multiple competencies (including verbal adeptness in explaining his work) have produced about 20 identically

sized small, neat abstract paintings in the odd media combination of "gouache and ink on paper mounted on canvas mounted on panel."

The paintings—dark and geometric with small bricklike units—are pleasant enough (Mr. O'Dell favors restful blues), but they waver along that line between genuinely obsessive variations on a theme and the mere convenience of near-uniformity. What tilts the verdict in Mr. O'Dell's favor are subtle intricacies in color and a carefully integrated collage element in several pictures.