

CLIFTON BENEVENTO

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GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN: ART

NED VENA

In this standout show, Vena upends recent art history with an irreverent, punk-rock approach: the chevron form that recurs in the eight paintings here is borrowed from Frank Stella, but the graffiti ink used to outline the pattern is straight-up street. Half the canvases are actually monotypes, created by placing two canvases atop one another and allowing the ink to saturate both. The results are violet nimbuses that transform a hard-edged icon of minimalism into a color-field, stain-painting haze. Vena revisits the process in the show's lone sculpture: a piece of safety glass, treated with acidic gel, then pressed against another piece of glass, yielding bleached-out Rorschach blots, introducing Warhol into the mix Through June 16.

Claire Barlaint, May 2012