

CLIFTON BENEVENTO

LOCATION: 515 BROADWAY NEW YORK NY 10012 PHONE: 212 431 6325 FAX: 212 334 4703
EMAIL: INFO@CLIFTONBENEVENTO.COM WEBSITE: WWW.CLIFTONBENEVENTO.COM

The New York Times

Polly Apfelbaum: ‘A Handweaver’s Pattern Book’

JULY 24, 2014



With their lush, multicolored scraps of stained velvet, Polly Apfelbaum’s fabric installations have always been a kind of painting-by-other-means. In her latest [show](#), she keeps that connection alive while also delving into the history of handmade textiles.

Inspired by a tattered copy of Marguerite Porter Davison’s “[A Handweaver’s Pattern Book](#),” from 1950 (available for perusing at the gallery), Ms. Apfelbaum translated designs from the book to rectangular panels of synthetic velvet. She used a plastic punch card as a kind of stencil, poking marker tips through the holes to make shimmering fields of evenly spaced dots.

Draped loosely along the gallery walls, the panels sample many different colors and patterns: jaunty stripes, squares arranged seemingly at random and the small triangles of “flying geese” quilts, to name a few. They are punctuated by ceramic beads on strings that hang from the ceiling at regular intervals.

As in the Sigmar Polke exhibition now at the Museum of Modern Art, the combination of art and craft processes results in a rich and slippery visual field — one that might be painted, woven or simply hallucinated. — Karen Rosenberg

Clifton Benevento

515 Broadway, between Spring and Broome Streets, SoHo

Through Aug. 8

A version of this review appears in print on July 25, 2014, on page C20 of the New York edition with the headline: Polly Apfelbaum: ‘A Handweaver’s Pattern Book’.