

Artist's geometry stirs imagination

By Dan Acosta
special writer

Tents fly and pyramids rise in the paintings of Bloomfield Hills artist Felice N. Shecter now at the Xochipilli Gallery.

Ms. Shecter's "Paradigm Series" are oils on canvas and some gouaches and shaped canvases. All have a recurring imagery — three horizontal bands with a similar shape repeated in each. The shapes, variations of triangles and ovals, are part of what Ms. Shecter calls her "personal mythology."

But they're more than personal. Her fantasies stir a collective unconscious

by moving the viewer through time and space. Time is altered in an immediate sense by the repeated shapes progressively falling or flying off the canvases. But even more fun is the comic movement from the primeval to an equally distant millennium.

The Wellman machine is powered by the mysterious shapes. Are the falling ovals a primitive protocol or a cruising UFO? Are the triangles the pyramids of Chichen Itza or a changing computer graphic on a video screen?

THE TIME-PLAY is reinforced by the ambiguous space. It can be as deep as Dali or as flat as an Indian blanket, which the colors and geometry some-

review

times suggest.

Ms. Shecter earned her degrees at the Center for Creative Studies. She says she was steeped in classicism when studying under Sarkis. She tempered this tradition with her own interest in the writings of Kandinsky and Klee about spiritualism in art. This is one of the dualities that makes her

fantasies both here and now and atavistic.

"I try to lose my self-consciousness when I paint," says Ms. Shecter. "I want a purity of image that's not contrived. Part of the reason I call them paradigms is because they're a model of my total consciousness."

Yet in spite of all the conceptual talk

of unconscious fantasy and "personal mythology," the paintings are not total narcissism. They have a presence.

The surfaces are rich with color and texture. "I'm a sensualist. My hands are on those canvases," says the artist. And the shapes are activated by their relative placement and the brush strokes surrounding them. "I wanted them to move," she says.

Felice Shecter's "Paradigm Series" has an appeal beyond the retina to some human denominator spanning time and space. The show continues until June 27 at Xochipilli, 568 N. Woodward.

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