

Artist: Joel Bertelson.

Described by: Janet Van Fleet.

Title: Untitled

Medium: Marker on paper

Description: The colors in this piece, which is 15 inches tall and 22 inches wide, are intensely pigmented in clear, jewel-like colors that include turquoise, three different shades of green, a subtle lichen shade, lime green and a deep forest green, along with rust, golden yellow, orange, purple, and violet.

The entire surface is covered with small, precise areas of color in loose, abstract, geometric shapes. The effect is similar to a pieced quilt, with rectangular and square blocks, each containing smaller areas of geometric shapes. For example, in the upper right-hand quadrant we find a tall, rectangular block that is subdivided into 8 squares, each of which has a circle in the center. The squares are gold, rust, turquoise or brown, and the circles inside are turquoise or dark green.

One of the happy opportunities created by such an arrangement of geometric spaces is to produce an optical effect of looking down on, say, a city from an angle, with the circles representing the tops of smokestacks or water towers, and the small parallelograms running underneath some of the larger rectangular blocks appearing as the sides of buildings, in perspective from above, as they descend down to a street.