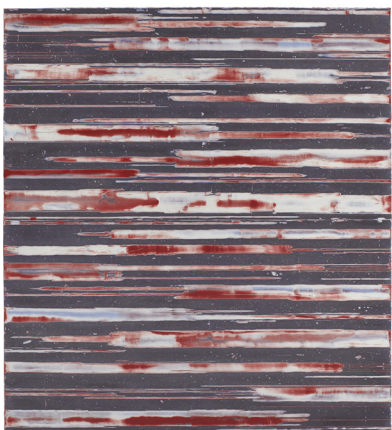


CALIFORNIA CONTEMPORARY

ART

Maria O'Malley₈ Linda Vallejo₁₂ Arshite Gorky₁₈
Art Shack at Laguna Art Museum₂₅ Patrick Graham₁₈
California Exhibitions₁₆₋₂₁

Mark Harrington
Edward Cella Los Angeles
 [through July 10]



Mark Harrington: (top) *Depth of Field 2*, 2010, acrylic on linen, 43.25" x 38.25". (bottom) *Great Whale*, 2010, acrylic on linen, 79.5" x 72.5".

Depth of Field, a new exhibition from German-based artist **Mark Harrington**, presents new non-representational paintings, distinguished by their thickly layered surfaces organized in rhythmic bands of subtle, contrasting color. Inspired by the cinematographer's term "depth of field" – the range of distance within a photograph or film image that is acceptably sharp – the exhibition presents a sequence of paintings exploring the dynamic visual relationship between the painting's physical surface and its illusory visual ground. With a debt to fresco, Harrington imbeds multi-tonal veins of color into monochromatic fields through repeated insertions and reduc-

tions of paint. Using a minimal or reductive system of compressed layers of built-up and stripped-away paint, the artist controls what the eye perceives in terms of imagery. In doing so, Harrington establishes a dialogue between illusory bands of transparent, distressed color and the plastic, sculptural nature of his materials. Investigating the interaction of color and line, Harrington's large-scale abstractions focus on space, pictorial depth, and light. Employing the workmanship inherent to the classical traditions of European painting, Harrington's paintings represent a contemporary reinterpretation of the aesthetics of modernist painting.