



New & Noteworthy: Tommy Fitzpatrick Q&A

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Sunblind Pillars, 2010 | Acrylic on canvas, 69 x 44 inches

Included with every edition of *New American Paintings* are two Noteworthy artists from the competition—one selected by the edition's guest juror and another selected by the magazine—an honor in addition to being selected as a winner. This week we caught up with Texas artist Tommy Fitzpatrick, featured as a Noteworthy artist in Edition #84, whose work for the last several years has been based on the architecture of the cities in which the artist is to be exhibited.

EJG: What are you working on right now in your studio? Tell me about your new work.

TF: Over the last year I've been working on a group of paintings based on buildings in Berlin to be shown in Berlin.

EJG: How do you work in the studio?

TF: I think of the painting process as if it were a job. I work everyday and enjoy the early mornings the best. Music is a big part of the painting experience. I usually work on paintings one at a time and spend close to a month on each one.



Above Ground, 2010 | Acrylic on canvas, 33 x 69 inches

EJG: What is it about architecture that you find intriguing? How do you find that it informs your work?

TF: Working with pre-existing architectural forms, my compositions are searching for a type of balance and intensity that is reflective of current times. The buildings' windows mirror our world. The structure of the steel grid sets up a constant visual rhythm. The transparency of the glass, along with its reflections and shadows, creates an organic, optical tension as complex as our new global experience.

I try to depict the skin of architecture as flat as possible with the use of acrylic paint and tape. Using this modernist hard edge language, I simulate illusionist space describes in the flattest of means. My paintings are complexity coupled with distortion. I want to present a clear but confusing image of the present – a type of crisis of perception.



Sol Invictus, 2010 | Acrylic on canvas, 50 x 50 inches

EJG: Where have you been to view the buildings you recreate?

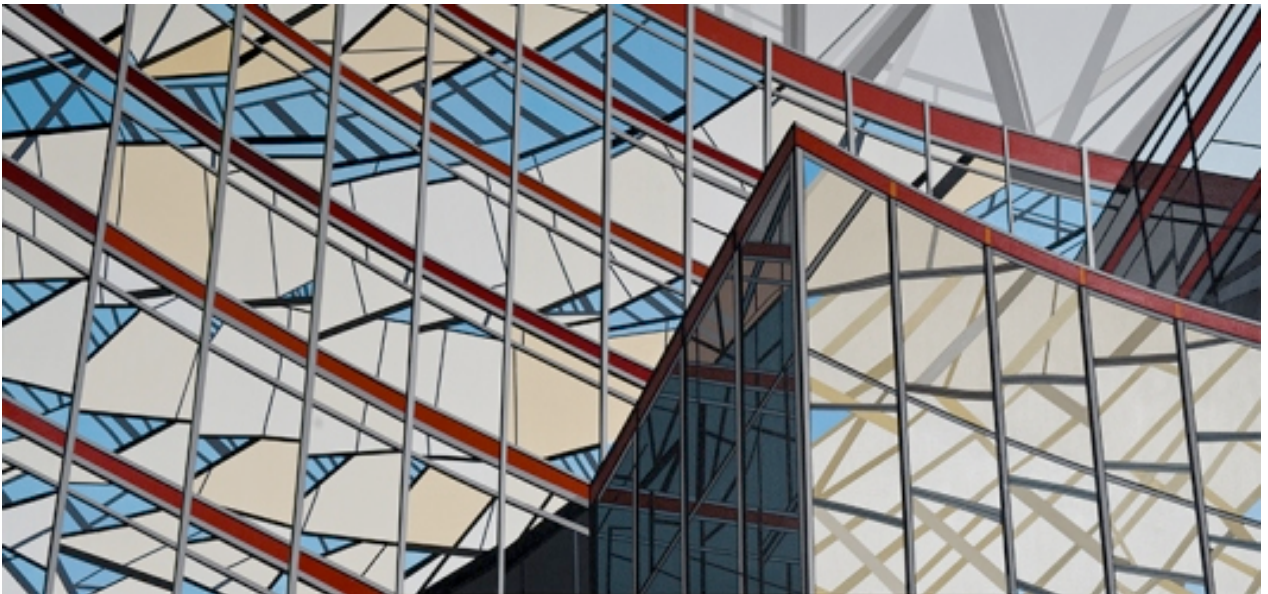
TF: Last year I had a show in Seoul, South Korea and the paintings were based on photos I took while visiting Seoul. For the last several years all of my shows have been location specific.

EJG: Do you have any shows lined up in the near future?

TF: I have one person shows in Berlin at Michael Schultz Gallery and Inman Gallery in Houston in 2011.



Western Exposure, 2010 | Acrylic on canvas, 33 x 69 inches



Dynamic Symmetry, 2010 | Acrylic on canvas, 33 x 69 inches