

ALEXANDRE GALLERY

THE NEW YORKER

GALLERIES-CHELSEA

NOVEMBER 24, 2008

STEPHEN WESTFALL

Like many painters who moonlight as art critics, Westfall is a nostalgic stylist. Hard-edged abstractions—stripes and grids in chipper colors—pledge allegiance to aesthetic principles that were lately passé when he arrived on the scene. (He was born in 1953.) Deep erudition haunts formats that dream of Mondrian, Agnes Martin, and other paladins of passionate, high-modernist rigor. Westfall retools classically heraldic effects with mild wit (grids jiggling off register, hints of commercial signage) at modest scale (big ideas become carry-on luggage). His is an art in love with the love of art, inviting viewers into an intimate circle of enraptured sophistication. Through Dec. 20. (Lennon, Weinberg, 514 W. 25th St. 212-941-0012.)