

KENNETH

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Noland's painting is not "new" or "novel"; it is fresh. In its economy it joins the great tradition of the plastic arts, renewed and revealed in our time because we are fed up with "literature", that is, with the proliferation of contingent meanings and conceitful complexities. Certainly we owe it to ourselves to see the world afresh . . . to see color, for example, simply as shape and movement, to feel it without the kind of associations which adulterate its genuineness, its nude innocence.

Noland lays his colors in concentric circles or pours them in crossed fingers in order to get the maximum viable statement from one of the most economical visual situations available. Whether the color circles whirl (the crosses, too, involve motion around an axial point), or develop a beat in concentric waves in and out from the center, the statement ultimately comes to rest as purely resolved. It neither asks nor begs questions. You cannot, thank heaven, attribute motives and meanings outside of those which belong to plastic art. How often we have to relearn that art is neither literature, nature, nor even "good design", but an act of will, intelligence and feeling.

Noland's is at present one of the few real, concerted efforts to cleave to this essence of art and it is heroically stubborn in the face of enormous pressures to halt development in order to remain around a point of easy familiarity. The dead-pan technique, the religious avoidance of virtuosity and the passionate disinterestedness free these paintings from the contingent baggage common to ambitiously subjective performances. A breath of air — fresh air.

E. C. GOOSSEN

CATALOGUE

1. POLYHEDRA 80" x 90" 1960
COURTESY OF ANDRE EMMERICH GALLERY
2. THIS AND THAT 14' x 7' 1960
COURTESY OF ANDRE EMMERICH GALLERY
3. BLOOM 5' x 5' 1960
PRIVATE COLLECTION
4. EASTER 5'6" x 5'6" 1961
PRIVATE COLLECTION
5. RHYME 7' x 7' 1961
COLLECTION OF RICHARD BROWN BAKER
6. EPICENTER 33" x 33" 1958
PRIVATE COLLECTION
7. PAINTING (Double Circle) 6' x 12' 1959
COLLECTION OF PROF. AND MRS. WILLIAM RUBIN
8. PAINTING (Untitled) 68" x 67" 1958
COLLECTION OF JOSEPH H. HIRSHORN

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APR. 18 TO MAY 15, 1961