

## ARTS & CULTURE

# A bright spot in contemporary painting

*Two painters' differences bring out the best in each other.*

by **Alan Pocaro**

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Installation view, "Cody Hudson + Richard Colman" at Andrew Rafacz

Credit: Courtesy Andrew Rafacz

Contemporary painting is vast terrain. Its broad, shimmering beauty and stylistic scope eludes easy classification. In spite of digital reproduction's awesome omnipresence and the mobile Internet's

unrestrained reach, a comprehensive view will forever exceed our vision. While we can't see or speak of linear movements, we can still witness formal affinities and visit thematic encampments. A particularly luminous settlement is currently located at Andrew Rafacz gallery.



Powder-coated steel sculptures by local artist Cody Hudson  
Courtesy Andrew Rafacz

An ideal survey of clear color and crisp form, Cody Hudson and Richard Colman's untitled two-person pairing demonstrates the wide visual range that similar technical approaches to paint (hard edges, flat shapes) can materialize. The show, without a heady statement to digest, is unabashedly fun, bright, and sweetly satisfying to look at. You won't be asked to plumb the depths of your soul or square yourself with the inherent contradictions of a late-capitalist lifestyle to appreciate these paintings.





*Hand-Picked* by Richard Colman  
Courtesy Andrew Rafacz

Where Hudson's Matisse-inspired work is playfully abstract and locally made, Colman's is figurative, more rigorously composed, and from the west coast. Their differences bring out the best in each other. Compare

how the hieroglyphic characters in works such as Colman's *Hand Picked* tend to draw out the representational elements in Hudson's more floral abstraction. While both artists effectively use black as a color, Colman's wider range and pops of sizzling fluorescent hues are more surprising than Hudson's narrower, more controlled palette. Effortlessly enjoyable and as welcome as a sunny day in February, this show is a bright spot on the contemporary map.

**▣ “Cody Hudson + Richard Colman”**

Through 4/1: Tue-Fri 10 AM-5 PM, Sat 11 AM-5PM Andrew Rafacz, 1749 W. Chicago,  
[andrewrafacz.com/exhibitions](http://andrewrafacz.com/exhibitions)