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art ltd.

Critic's Picks: Houston

Nancy Zastudil / September 1, 2014



There is perhaps no more delicate relationship than the artistic *ménage à trois* of color, form, and space. In the case of Eduardo Portillo's recent works, it's not sex that binds these three players but painting. Portillo teases out the elements of both sculpture and painting with irregularly shaped armatures under a painted canvas skin, stretched smooth in some places while protruding in others. He situates the pieces on the wall, on the floor, or propped up in a corner in order to accentuate the planes of color, whether muted or fluorescent, which are interrupted by lifts of the canvas, edges that seem to glow, corners that bend, dimple, and pucker. The irregular shapes and varying sizes of his canvases work to animate the space in which they inhabit, infusing his painted works with a similar emotive power as that of his soft sculptures, some of which were recently on view at Kirk Hopper Fine Art in Dallas. An emerging Salvadorian artist, Portillo lives and works in Houston and has been actively exhibiting since receiving his BFA from the University of Houston.

Floor Meets Yellow, 2014, Eduardo Portillo
Acrylic and spray paint on shaped canvas
54" x 70" x 16"