

TIBOR DE NAGY GALLERY

ESTABLISHED 1950

The New York Times



An untitled painting by Shirley Jaffe, at Tibor De Nagy Gallery. Credit Agaton Strom for The New York Times

TIBOR DE NAGY

Shirley Jaffe, 91, started out in New York as an Abstract Expressionist, using lots of gestures and paint. Then in 1949 she moved to Paris and became something else: an expressive geometrician. Her newly crisp-edged forms and flat bright colors owed a debt to Matisse's cutouts, as she readily acknowledged, but it's the Expressionist, always there, who surfaces in the works on paper in her current show at Tibor de Nagy (one of the area's few remaining old-regime spaces, since 1950). Alongside the show's handful of rigorous oil paintings, the works on paper are art at ease. Ms. Jaffe swipes colors on and lets them bleed together, lets forms overlap, adds squiggles and splats and bits of collage. She makes painting look like fastidiously worked joy.

Holland Cotter
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724 Fifth Avenue New York NY 10019

212 262 5050 212 262 1841 fax info@tibordenagy.com tibordenagy.com