



Best in Show

By Robert Shuster March 21 2012

LAUREN LULOFF: 'RECENT SMALL WORKS'

According to the gallery's price list, Lauren Luloff's fabric collages are selling pretty well, and no wonder: They are some of the loveliest little things you'll find anywhere. Inside modestly sized frames, torn pieces on thrift-store cloth lie in spare arrangements on rectangular 'canvases' made from bedsheets. Although echoing Anne Ryan's late, pattern-based collages of similar scraps, Luloff is primarily a colorist emphasizing mood. She bleaches her material to achieve the gradations of watercolors and then the layers with liberal applications of rabbit-skin glue and touches of oil. The exquisite blending resembles the effects of stain painting. In *Clouds and Conversation*, for example, triangular snippings (yellow, brown, blue) float delicately on a milky surface, like translucent leaves on a pond.

Still, you're always aware that the ragged shapes have all come from other places and times. Scattered on their washed-out backgrounds, mottled polygons, frayed threads, grids, and strips suggest fragments of imagined or remembered moments. With the nice timing for spring, Luloff has assembled a series of daydreams. *Horton Gallery, 504 West 22nd Street, 212-243-2663, hortongallery.com. Through March 31.*