

Lynn Davison shows new work

The work of Lynn Davison is on view at Allyn Gallup Contemporary Art through Feb. 29. The selection of work – including pencil drawings, mezzotints, oils on paper and oils on canvas – manifests Davison's understanding of the human anatomy as well as her extraordinary imagination in executing compositions that satisfy, surprise and challenge the viewer.

A particularly compelling group of three large paintings expose us to curious groupings of toys and other objects. Perhaps the most riveting work is called "Dillo (as in 'Armadillo') Rules." It causes us to psychologically project ourselves into the heads of the toys facing away from us and toward a clean carcass on a plate. Davison admits that



"Dillo Rules" is one of the works by Lynn Davison currently on view at Allyn Gallup Contemporary Art through Feb. 29.

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she sees so many colors whenever she looks at anything. On close inspection, the heads of these creatures possess a rainbow layered onto them.

Davison's paintings are wonderfully complex. They are about line and color. They are about form and space. And they are about paint. It is more than evident that Davison loves to paint.

In another powerful painting she calls "Buttons and no Bows," she has confined a reclining figure of a woman to a narrow canvas approximately 30 inches high by 48 inches wide. The woman appears comfortable and restricted at the same time. The foreshortening of the body recalls successful attempts of Renaissance artists who in the 16th century were newly fascinated with perspective and foreshortening. Davison's female is pure invention, as are the giant buttons of her subject's garment and concentration. The artist has purposefully cropped the right arm of the woman so we cannot see her hand that would be beyond the frame. The construct of Davison's composition, with the deep narrow space and the cropped limb, causes us to be a foil to the illusion of a figure and see this work as a brilliant painting.

A painting Davison completed a few years ago appears in this show in a frame she had always planned for it. It hangs in the window of the gallery. The black frame contains a figure hurtling through space away from us. Its architectural nature increases the sense of drama as we are pulled through what seems like an opening in the wall. Many other works startle and seduce us in multiple ways. Make a point to see this show.