

Barrickman in the clouds at Green Gallery



“Pedestrian Cloud Account: Peter Barrickman” Credit: Courtesy the Green Gallery

By *Rafael Francisco Salas*

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Peter Barrickman is keenly observant of how we live. He has accepted and synthesized the complexity of multiple influences, the dynamic facts of 21st-century life. His new paintings, full of color and found ideas, are reminiscent of a lonesome stroll in the city or the ways our memories are stored in the clouds, literal and digital.

Barrickman is creating an aura of the street. These new paintings are romantic and full of the silent witnessing one might experience meandering alone and observing details. Elements of the street, architecture and people, are analyzed out of context and sometimes viewed from the aperture of an airplane’s window.

In “Sabbath Catalog” We see an erratic map of color-coded dots and squares signifying specific businesses in the neighborhood. “Starbucks, Berry Me, Eco-Pet” and the “Roman Coin” are humorously cataloged with a vintage label maker. One patch of the painting includes different colors of already-been-chewed gum as well as pieces of what appear to be brick or pavement. In the center, rays of yellow light appear to shine through branches.

Other paintings continue this creative examination of urban environs. “Night Files” displays horizontal rectangles in a range of beautiful blues, from sky to ice to midnight. They are painted depictions of sound files on the computer, the sound waves abstractly keeping time, buzzing to enlarge and diminish their codes of volume and richness. In fact, they are recorded sounds of the city by night, translated into paint.

There is also a grouping of smaller works on paper. They depict the wings of airplanes as seen from the windows of the loud seats of an exit row. From these obstructed views Barrickman leans his head out to count the stars, watch it rain and look down 30,000 feet to the blinking lights of a city he is visiting or has just left. These works pull the exhibit into coherence. We can see Barrickman, in the clouds, watching us from above.

“Pedestrian Cloud Account: Peter Barrickman,” is on view at The Green Gallery, 1500 N. Farwell Ave., through May 14. For more information visit thegreengallery.biz

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