



map quest

"i sample maps, distort them," steve bindernagel said of the inspiration for his captivating abstract works. by hand or by computer, the artist remakes the world in his own imaginings, using canvas and other painting tools. but his singular process generates an un-painterly result. lines, bumps and colors as they might usually appear in the application of paint to canvas have been subdued by a layer of encaustic wax or acrylic resin. texture comes only from marks cut into the thick, smooth coating with a soldering knife, while the tones beneath resemble the watery pastels of an atlas.

with a new body of work now on display at mahan gallery (probably his last local show for a while—he's pursuing a master's in painting at new york's school of visual arts in the fall), bindernagel has become more playful in his approach and bolder in his use of color. "i've found out how to make them more vibrant, but also harmonious," he said.

deep, rusty red, and dense forest green have entered his palette, with additional color coming from tints that swirl within the resin or accentuate his soldering lines. brushstrokes also appear, though burn marks contain them without beginning or end. "i'm picking apart these pieces of motion, or violence, or action," the artist said. "it's my first use of brushstrokes in six years. sometimes it's fun to contradict yourself."

works by steve bindernagel hang at mahan gallery through june 26. call 294-3278 for details. —melissa starker