



11.22.07 FREE/NEWCITY.COM

art

TIP OF THE WEEK
JASON KAROLAK



Form is foremost in Jason Karolak's new paintings and drawings. The Chicago artist's work ranges in scale from the epic to the intimate, all of which deem shape, line and color as supreme. In Karolak's large paintings we see the artist as the creationist, one who brings a matrix of structure into existence from the nothingness that is the drawing plane. Undulating lines or stacked shapes, luminous and bright in color, rise triumphantly from the background of a flat, black void. Configurations often take a funnel-like shape as violent tornadoes of glowing oranges, yellows and blues. Each twister begins controlled and results in pure chaos of material manifestation. In smaller paintings, background diminishes as shape and color take precedence. Delicate forms are piled atop each other, layered onto one another, begging the viewer to step in closer and visually meander through formal space. The drawings primarily celebrate line. Structures grow from tarry, black ink onto pristine, white paper, chronicling line as the foundation of geometrical growth. Each presents a strange configuration of unstable architecture, loose and kinetic. Even though there is a slight variation between the paintings, large and small, and Karolak's drawings, all three speak to each other brilliantly in a wonderful, formalist dialogue. (Karissa Lang)

Jason Karolak shows at Rowland Contemporary, 1118 West Fulton Market, (312)421-6275, through December 8.