

# ARTS & STYLE

SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2022 • SECTION E



## Visual City Symphonies

BY MARK JENKINS

### Michael Crossett

They don't feature the usual Washington postcard scenes, but Michael Crossett's silk-screened photo collages are instantly recognizable as D.C. The brightly colored works in the local artist's Long View Gallery show match and juxtapose buildings and signs, monumental and vernacular, new and old. Crossett has altered the format of the visual city symphonies he has been composing for years, but the material is familiar.

This selection does introduce a few variations, including montages in the artist's usual style that offer mini-tours of

London and New York City. More of a stretch are the circular, vinyl record-derived pieces that slyly incorporate the show's title, "Flip Side." Each one has at its center a simulated label emblazoned with that phrase, but transliterated into Japanese. (The son of an Air Force service member, Crossett spent part of his childhood in Okinawa.) These homages to 12-inch singles are two to four times the size of the originals.

The artist sometimes finishes his prints with resin or spray paint, and the "Flip Side" pieces are his loosest, most painterly works. Beyond the labels, complete with song titles such as "Vogue," the roundels turn into target paintings or are divided into contrasting quadrants that balance abstract and photo-derived imagery. Blazing with Day-Glo reds and oranges, these print-paintings render Crossett's real-world inspirations into a language all his own.

**Michael Crossett: Flip Side**  
Through May 22 at Long View  
Gallery, 1234 Ninth St. NW