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ART IN REVIEW; Craig Kauffman

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In the 1960's Craig Kauffman contributed to the Los Angeles "fetish finish" movement, with Minimalistic, vacuum-formed plastic shapes, slickly spray-painted in ways that bespoke enthrallment to California hot-rod and custom-car culture. In its technical fanaticism, it was what some might call "guy art." Mr. Kauffman is still working in the same vein, but his new, sensuously iconic wallworks have a quality that one ventures to call "feminine."

Each piece is an irregular, doughnut-shaped relief about three feet across with a near circular center and a bulging lower half. Made of vacuum-formed transparent plastic, each has been spray-painted from behind; seen through the glossy plastic, the frosty, pearlescent colors -- luminous shades of pink, copper and blue -- call to mind fingernail polish.

Some viewers might dismiss these works as pretty, empty commodities. Others might find in them a compelling, weirdly artificial, vaguely erotic and futuristic beauty -- they could be used to decorate a "Clockwork Orange" milkbar.

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