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### Colorado Abstract: Paintings and Sculpture

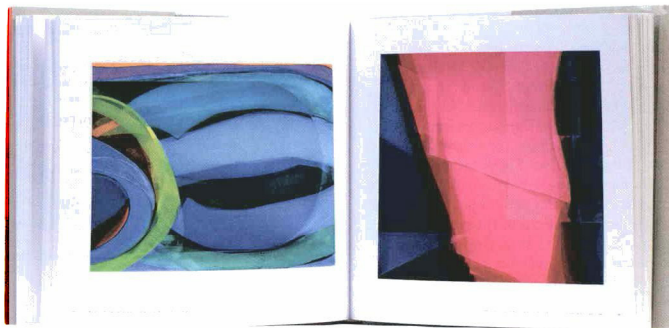
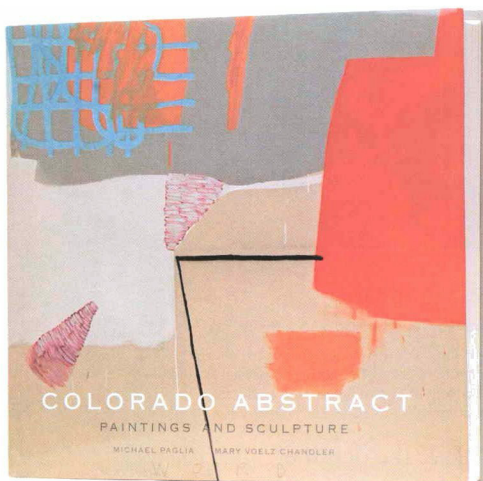
»» BY MICHAEL PAGLIA AND MARY VOELZ CHANDLER

*Colorado Abstract: Paintings and Sculpture* opens with a foreword by Hugh Grant, director and curator of the Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art in Denver, CO. Author Michael Paglia then discusses the history of abstraction in Colorado, including Colorado cubism, the influence of European modernism, American surrealism, the establishment of abstract expressionism, and the arrival of abstract sculpture. The next section of the book is written by Mary Voelz Chandler and highlights abstract paintings and sculpture by 54 Colorado artists, including Don Quade, Tony Coulter, Haze Diedrich, Sarah Fox, Ana Maria Hernando, James Surls, and David Yust.

Virginia Maitland, one of the artists included in the book, uses form and bold colors in her simple, abstract works. "Veils and scrimms of paint appear to not just fill the surface of the canvas, but also to add a sense of dimension, as if a mere length of cloth could not contain the brilliant color and sophisticated forms that demonstrate Maitland's understanding of beauty," writes Chandler.

Michael Raaum is another artist whose work is highlighted. When painting, he considers symbolism and perception, which allows him to work freely. His paintings feature bold colors with circular forms. His piece CHAMPAGNE CASCADE features a bold red background with circle patterns and white paint streaming down the canvas. In his other painting, FACING WEST, he uses pale colors and layers abstract circle patterns, creating a raw energy. Chandler describes Raaum's works as focused on line, form, and color, adding, "Energy and motion are key aspects of paintings in which vivid imagery is the goal, where a composition appears to float and move, where color pops, and where linear elements are clear and strong."

*Colorado Abstract* provides insight into the past and present art movements within Colorado and gives readers a glimpse of recent works by Colorado abstract artists.



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