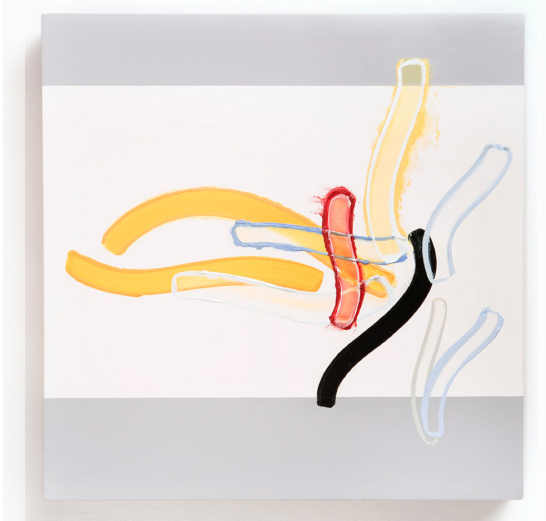


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## Sharon Loudon Solo Show at Burnet Gallery “Movement and Gesture”

When I first found out that I was to attend [Sharon Loudon's](#) “Movement and Gesture” show at [Burnet Gallery](#), I was a little worried as I was slightly intimidated by abstract art. I found it to be alienating and, at times frustrating to comprehend. However, when I was shown a few images of her paintings I was, without warning, whisked back to a time long forgotten; a time in my childhood in which I longed to escape the confines of my classroom to run and play in the outside world. After I snapped back to reality I was a little confused as to how I was taken back so abruptly and why that image made me feel what I felt. Then in that moment I got it; I had a personal understanding of abstract art.

The way I see it, when it comes to abstract art it's less about what you're seeing, and more about *how* what you're seeing is making you feel. These feelings as a result give the artwork a life of its own, a life that is infinite, a life that reincarnates as different viewers interchange. Abstract art exists in the world of subjectivity where instead of being told what door to walk through you are given an infinite number of doors to enter as you please, whenever you like.

After coming to this realization I decided to attend the show as a blank slate. No assumptions, no preconceptions.

When I finally did attend the show the small taste of childlike whimsy that I felt prior became obvious to me. The nostalgia blew in like a gentle breeze (like nostalgia often does to me) and it felt very freeing. Loudon's paintings are very open with a great deal of space; visited by charming shapes and colors that have intentional placings as they seem to fit and flow like little dancers. At times I felt like I was watching a cartoon — as her work is very animated and full of warmth and character.

I was reminded that art — while at times a fixed object — is alive and can live its life long after the show has closed. Sharon Loudon's work means something to me just like it meant something to everyone else at the show, and it's okay if those meanings are different for each of us.

Words by [Amina Harper](#)