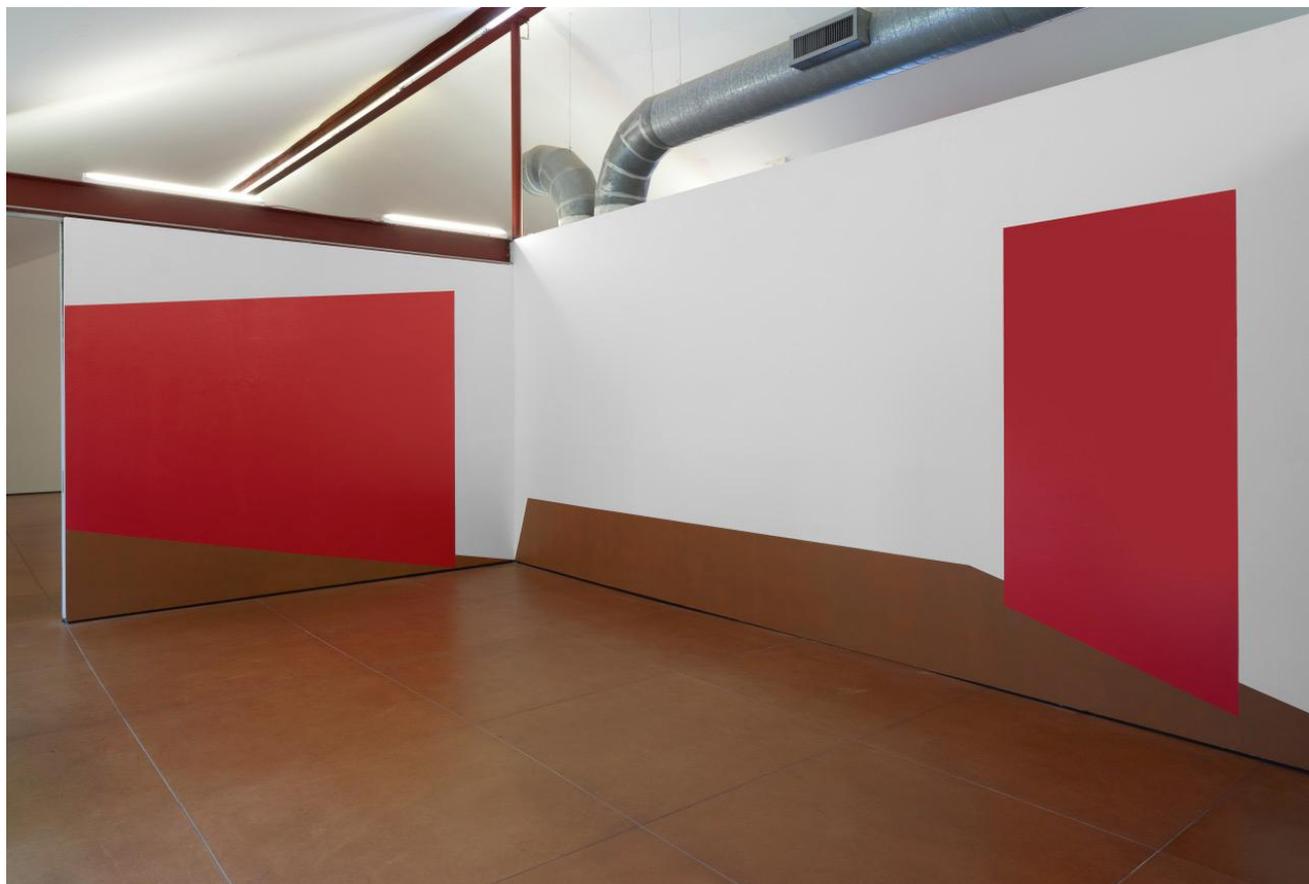


6 American Galleries Highlighting Abstraction

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Courtesy Hiram Butler Gallery, Houston

Kate Shepherd, *April, May, June, etc., etc., Upended Floor (Mud, Blood)* , 2020.

As art exhibitions have begun to reopen amidst the continuing coronavirus pandemic, we've discovered that a number of American galleries are highlighting abstraction, even though figuration is what's generally trending today.

Whether it's a stylistic shift or merely a coincidence, we'll have to wait and see in order to further evaluate, but what we can uncover now is that regardless of gender or age, abstraction still holds a fascination with artists and continues to convey a pictorial language that takes viewers beyond their day to day existence.

Rounding up six recently opened shows in Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, Houston, New York, and Miami, we offer a contemplative tour of some of the ways artists are using abstraction today.



Courtesy Hiram Butler Gallery, Houston

Kate Shepherd, *April, May, June, etc., etc., Upended Floor (Mud, Blood)* , 2020.

Kate Shepherd: April, May, June, etc., etc., Upended Floor (Mud, Blood)

Hiram Butler Gallery, Houston

May 26–July 31, 2020

New York-based artist Kate Shepherd took the problem of not being able to physically work in her studio and the health risk associated with air travel as a challenge when considering a solo show at her [Houston gallery](#). Known for her abstract paintings that have their origins in 3D digital modeling programs, Shepherd decided to virtually design an exhibition, that she visualized at a distance, as a suite of three wall paintings within the gallery’s windowed space, which would be viewed while social distancing from an enchanting garden entrance.

Painted on site by others, the artist’s three murals extend what she charmingly calls the brown, mud-colored floor of the gallery onto the walls so that the dimensions of the space are illusionistically increased and its floor plan is dramatically altered. Three blood-red rectangles, which simulate paintings that extend from the floor, rest on the walls at skewed angles to shift the perspective of the viewer.

In a statement for the show, which the artist recited in an accompanying video, Shepherd conveyed, “...isolation gives me the chance to focus on what’s before me,” a sentiment that’s unconsciously shared by the audience, which must remain on the outside looking in.

About the Author

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Paul Laster is an artist, critic, curator, editor, and lecturer. He is a contributing editor at *ArtAsiaPacific* and *Whitehot Magazine of*

Contemporary Art and writer for *Time Out New York*, *Galerie Magazine*, *Harper's Bazaar Arabia*, *Architectural Digest*, *Cultured*, *Garage Magazine*, *Ocula*, *ArtPulse*, *Observer*, *Conceptual Fine Arts* and *Glasstire*. He was *Artkrush*'s founding editor, started *The Daily Beast*'s art section and was art editor of Russell Simmons' *Oneworld Magazine*, as well as an Adjunct Curator of Photography at P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, now MoMA PS1.