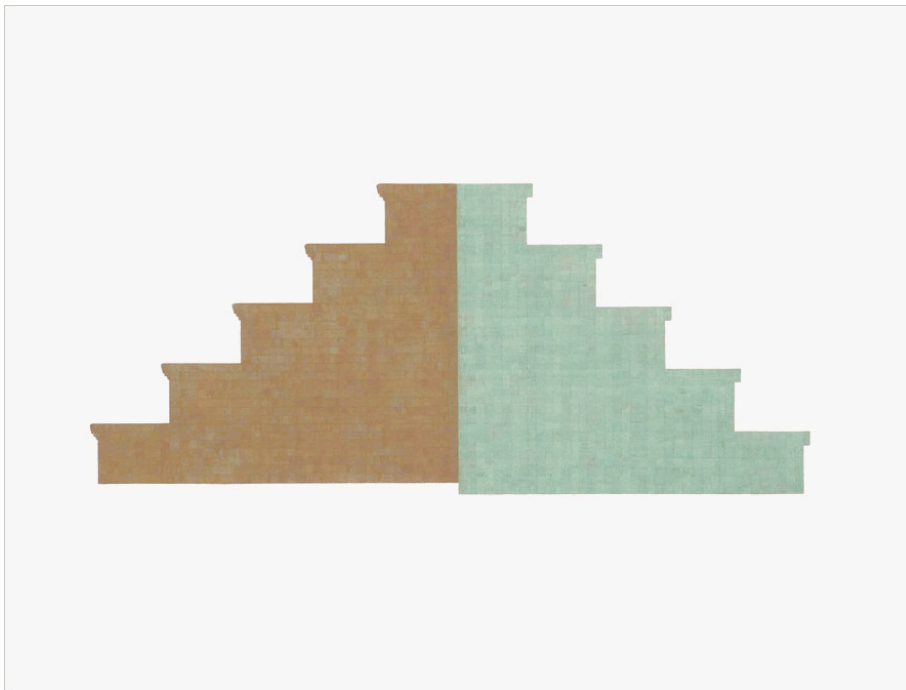


READER

Galleries & Museums

Critic's Choice

Julia Fish, *Between: Stairs and Landings*



Study for East Stairway With West Stairway/Profile Excerpt

Inspired (like much of her work in the last decade) by spaces in her home, Julia Fish's new drawings resemble fragments of an architectural rendering. Some show lines snaking around right angles like an extended banister; others contain elements suggesting floor plans. Her browns and cyans echo the colors of the stairs and landings. But a careful viewing of these small, quiet works reveals deeper subtleties: hints of floorboard patterns that seem to press up through the surface colors, shapes (as of stairs, for instance) that are strange and yet common enough to exist in any home. And the hues are wondrously sensual, their depth seeming to change over time. Fish's drawings remind us that the details of our visible world can, if encountered profoundly and mindfully, offer tactile pleasures and ambiguities not easily reduced to language or concepts. Through 5/30: Tue-Fri 10-5:30, Sat 11-5:30, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, 118 N. Peoria, 312-455-1990. - *Fred Camper*