Tommy Fitzpatrick at Holly Johnson

**Liquidity (2006); acrylic on canvas**

Dallas native Tommy Fitzpatrick says that while growing up, he thought that his hometown's skyscrapers were the city's biggest tangible asset. As a grown-up Yale-trained painter and collegiate art instructor, Mr. Fitzpatrick hasn't changed his mind, though his artistic fascination with modern corporate structures blossomed several years ago in another Texas city with more than its share of tall, shiny landmarks: Houston. Now based in Arlington and an assistant professor of art at Tarrant County College, Mr. Fitzpatrick, 37, has turned his painterly attention to some of this area's glitziest buildings. Some recent results are on display at Holly Johnson Gallery. He doesn't quaintly render from just any vantage point; he uses the expansive panels of glass on structures such as Fountain Place and Bank of America Plaza in Dallas and various Trinity Bluff commercial developments in Fort Worth as reflective fields that warp each building's surroundings like a carnival fun-house mirror. He works from photographs, using copious lengths of masking tape to segment his large, hyperrealist views, which substitute windowpane frames for horizon lines and amplify colors and contrast for effect. The resulting paintings are part abstraction study, part architectural commentary and part circus sideshow that can simultaneously tempt wonder and turn stomachs.

Mike Daniel

"Facade" is on display through Sept. 9 at Holly Johnson Gallery, 1411 Dragon St. Hours: Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 214-369-0169. www.hollyjohnsongallery.com.

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