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IN THE GALLERIES

BY MARK JENKINS

Georgia Nassikas

The view can be mostly land or primarily sky, or an distillation of either, in Georgia Nassikas's paintings. The McLean artist's Athenaeum show features simple compositions, often little more than two areas of color separated by a hint of a rock fence or a row of trees. Yet the ground is densely heathered, and the sky richly streaked. The lush textures are created with brushwork, sometimes supplemented by scratches, and with pigment mixed with wax from Nassikas's own beehives.

The selection includes a few paintings in which the geometric forms turn explicit, and fields and air become clearly defined rectangles. The most immersive canvases, however, retain a sense of landscape. Such pictures as "Still Looking Over" shift from abstraction to realism as the loosely painted foreground leads toward a more solid sense of place.



Glow oil on canvas 72x48

Georgia Nassikas On view through April 24 at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. 703-548-0035. nvfaa.org.