

Meaning lost behind dazzle

Fell in Love is the theme of Philip Faulk's vivid, rather dazzling paintings.

While they trace human relationships with some obscurity, and as narrative images have little to convey, they have much as decorative forms.

Built out of repeated patterns around a symmetrical axis they explore the optical effect created by narrow lines, streaks and dashes of black placed close together in patterns on a white ground.

The effect is vibrant, dazzling the eye as it attempts to reconcile the sensations into some type of harmony and evoking a strong response as its result. To this degree they are quite expressive with the intense hues reinforcing the effect of the pattern.

Emerging from this web of design are flat figurative forms, emblems drawn from Eastern and Western sources, abstracted from their settings and meanings. They become decorative, but to explore them further, to search for a sense of significance beyond this, is fruitless.

While the overall impression of these paintings is stimulating and offers a visual intrigue, there is no room for thought or speculation other than this; the decorative ideal is an end in itself.

While this is sufficient to make them interesting and certainly is successfully accomplished, the scope of the references latent in the symbols and forms employed suggests a range of possible meaning that is left unfulfilled.

This gives the work a superficial rather than an enduring interest, that somewhat detracts from the initially splendid effect the work creates.

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