

AROUND LA

Modern Art Notes Review, 6/27/05 by Tyler Green

I did some Ess Eff gallery/museum notes last week. Today some sightseers from around the Southland...

Dmitri Kozyrev at Cirrus: Kozyrev is a landscape painter who has changed what landscape painting is. If Julie Mehretu paints globalization, Dmitri Kozyrev paints the movement that makes globalization possible.

Americans experience the fruited plain (or the fruited subdivision) at 75 miles per hour. Sometimes we fly over it at six times that speed. So that's how Kozyrev paints it.

Each canvas is made up of overlapping planes of color. Among them are distant horizons, some sunny, some cloudy, some dotted with buildings, some not. Strips of road -- or maybe runway -- run through the paintings, appearing to be going somewhere in the distance. Strangely, you can follow them from the inside of the paintings into the foreground, but as they get closer to the viewer they dissolve. Other landscape elements sit amongst the planes: flat farm buildings, smokestacks, freeway overpasses, onramps, valleys, rock outcroppings.

American landscape painting has long been about stasis, about sitting and enjoying a pretty scene. Americans do not sit and look at pretty scenes anymore. (Kudos to Cirrus for putting high-res Kozyrevs on their website. As with a lot of painting, small JPEGs don't do it.)

Please visit Tyler Green's Modern Art Notes via [ArtsJournal.com](http://www.artsjournal.com)