

Michael Shaw

John Mills' abstractions are light on density; there's typically more white or off-white background space than foreground imagery. But what initially what may come off as faint and/or ineffectual quickly becomes experientially complex. Thin lines of boldly drawn paint subtly activate the overall space within which loose brushy shapes are

filled in here and there; some earth tones, others brighter colors, though always toned down, and always part of a larger field. The drawing style is reminiscent of Miro, but the work never goes near becoming so graphic. Your eyes are always moving around — balance and counterbalance, but the logic is deeper, it's internalized. Mills never panders. There are no easy gets here; the work unfolds slowly and reveals itself over multiple viewings. You're either on board or you're not (Rosamund Felsen Gallery, Santa Monica).

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John Mills, "Dome," 2014, oil and graphite on canvas, 78 x 78", is currently on view at Rosamund Felsen.