

THE BOSTON GLOBE FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2003

## Galleries

By Cate McQuaid

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### New Year/New Work

At: O'H+T Gallery, 450 Harrison Ave.,  
through Feb. 1. 617-423-1677;  
www.ohgallery.com.



Carolanna Parlato's "Rapunzel II" resembles hair tumbling down a canvas.

Group shows are good opportunities to drink in a particular gallery's aesthetic and see if it fits your own. Two Harrison Avenue galleries have group shows up now that speak to the vision of their gallerists.

New Year/New Work, up at Kathleen O'Hara and Caroline Taggart's space, O'H+T Gallery, demonstrates the two dealers' abstract, form-driven taste. Thaddeus Beal continues his exploration of the relationship between order and chaos in works made with rust and dye on canvas, framed in white rubber. The rubber is reassuringly finite around the nebulae of grays and browns in "Emerging Chaos." We see the shadowy traces of diagrams, dissolving into sprays of dust.

Marilyn Swett's cast-iron "Collar" looks more like a found object than a crafted one — an artifact unearthed from the floor of a deserted factory. It's bell-shaped with holes around the bottom and a slit down one side, cannily conflating hard industry with soft feminine wiles.

John Obuck's untitled paintings look at first as if he's cut small squares and pasted them onto the canvas. In fact, they're square patches of paint, each a different

flourish of paint application, skirting the territory between Modernism and expressionism.

Carolanna Parlato's "Rapunzel II," made from poured paint, does look like a curtain of hair dropping down the misty green canvas in fluid undulations of magenta and gray. The colors shimmy together into unexpected forms, insinuating seduction. It's quite a contrast to Mary Bucci McCoy's untitled wood pieces, which reference landscape in their horizontality and architecture in the crispness of their construction.

The works vary — some are earthy, some mysterious, some intellectual, some sensual. But they all pay stringent attention to form, and make for a small, bracing show.