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RON LINDEN, paintings
Ovsey Gallery

Ron Linden's crisp, low-key acrylic and graphite paintings work as extensions of Conceptualism. This is evident in the reductive color schema, held to a monochromatic black, and in the proliferation of drafting-tool imagery – signs of a concern with process and ideation.

Linden's *Dilemma – A.M.* expresses many of the hallmark Conceptualist concerns: spatial diagramming (rather than renaissance perspective) in the form of staircases that fold in on themselves, arbitrary ordering devices such as the three graphite rectangles that section off chunks of the painting, and so on. Yet there is more – a portentously layered area of black acrylic, hanging like a pall over the composition, and the cryptic "Dilemma / Albion Moonlight" scrawled across the bottom – lending the painting a heightened drama.

Under This Red Rock, perhaps the most enigmatic of Linden's works, is painted in rust tones that hark back to the red chalk favored by medieval artists. A table bearing an ambiguous form (the "red rock," presumably) sits along a path that is interrupted by a penciled-in circle. This interior scene might be called a still life, were it not for its pervading air of sinister ritual. Linden's painting avoids the tedium that often accompanies Conceptual art, both by his appealingly non-didactic compositions and by their austere, but not stingy, use of imagery.

Michael Anderson