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**VENICE, CALIF.**

**Linda Besemer  
at Angles**

In the past few years, L.A.-based abstract painter Linda Besemer has experimented with acrylic paint's plasticity and other physical properties. In her latest works, which employ neither canvas nor board supports, she dries and connects stripes of paint in complex multicolored layers and geometric designs. The finished pieces are flexible, rectangular objects that can be folded to reveal contrasting striped and plaid patterns on their fronts and backs. Although technically sculptural reliefs, these works speak to a number of painting's traditional formal concerns.

Similar in size to large-scale dish towels, the "Fold" works are hung over simple aluminum rods. *Fold Quadrant* (all works 1999) features a plaid design in bright synthetic lime, magenta and royal blue that folds over a more open geometric pattern. The "Folds" use their aluminum rods as pivots that enable the simultaneous display of each work's two sides. The artist toys with the alignment of front and back designs: a red stripe from the back of one painting, for example, lines up perfectly with a red stripe in a different pattern on the front. These flip-sided patterns operate conceptually like Möbius strips.

The 9-foot-tall, vertically striped *Zip Fold #3* is meant to hang directly from the wall. About

midway down its length, it is folded over an aluminum rod in such a way as to create a loose horizontal pleatlike effect. Another series of works, called "Slabs," at first appear to be standard-format monochrome paintings, executed in bold colors such as magenta and royal blue. Inspection of their 1½-inch sides reveals, however, 25 or so distinct and variously colored layers of acrylic paint, which are hidden behind the solidly hued, seemingly impermeable skins.

The mystery of colored paint—its origins in arcane tinctures and secret formulas—is suggested by Besemer's sly procedures. In her work, pattern, color and painted form become malleable, living processes that—amazingly—seem ripe for further experimentation. —Michael Duncan

Linda Besemer: *Fold Quadrant #2*, 1999, acrylic on aluminum rod, 45 by 47½ inches; at Angles.

