

Galleries *By Edith Newhall*

Two solo shows of lighter, brighter, meditative works

The airy, mildly geometric works on paper by Nicole Phungrasamee and Alex Paik are well paired in two solo shows at Gallery Joe.

Fein, who is having her third one-person show there, has left her monochromatic palette behind. Now, her tiny, square watercolor paintings of meticulously rendered lines are placed against spectrumlike arrangements of sunset hues like the hazy skies of Los Angeles or Long Island City (and maybe our own Essington). These are profoundly quiet works that suggest a meditative state.

The gallery's vault space is lightened and brightened by Alex Paik's small folded-and-painted-paper constructions. His first solo show here consists of nine works from his continuing series "Prelude and Fugue," all painted (and drawn with color pencil) in whimsical combinations of the cheery colors of flags and children's toys and books. Some are so open and delicate, they seem to hover against the wall, while others suggest a relative sturdiness.

Trained as a classical violinist, Paik takes inspiration from musical structures, but his pieces also bring origami, fairground architecture, and minimalist sculpture to mind.



Alex Paik's "Prelude and Fugue (Airy)," among nine folded-and-painted-paper constructions at his first solo show at Gallery Joe.