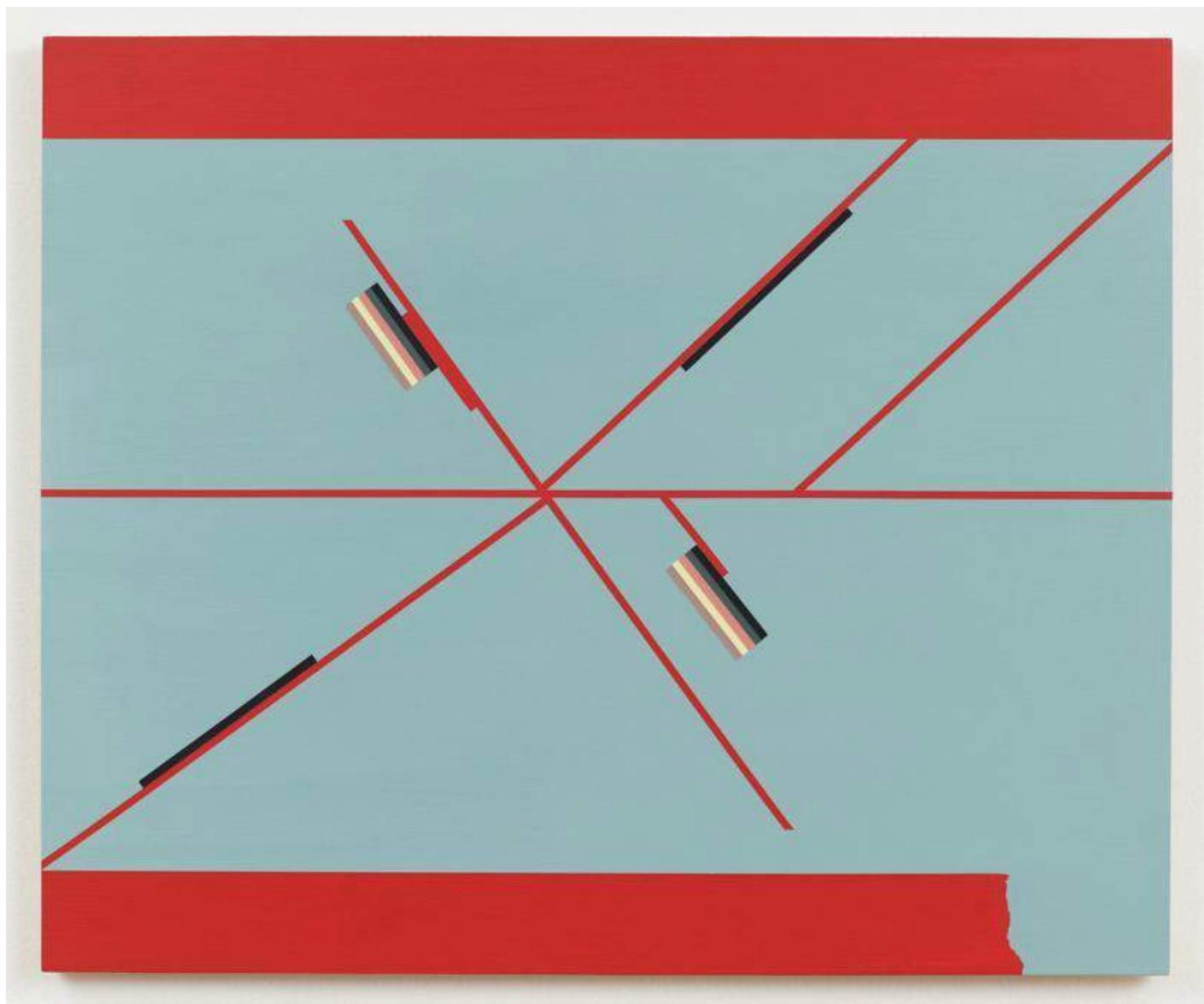


GALLERIES

# What's up at Boston-area art galleries



"EXTS" BY ANN PIBAL.

**By Cate McQuaid**

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT APRIL 16, 2013

Each of Ann Pibal's succinct abstract paintings moves the eye nimbly over the picture plane. Sharp angles, crisp lines, sometimes tangy color values, and, in her most recent pieces, breathy brushwork all portray a quizzical intent. She's like a physicist scribbling equations over a white board, puzzling out vital, small-scale unknowns.

But her methodical equations, in the acrylic-on-aluminum paintings now on view at Steven Zevitas Gallery, have a graceful simplicity you don't see on many white boards: straight lines, intersections, and little trolley-like loafs of color that ride along the lines, adding up to a system of weights and balances.

Look at "EXTS," in powdery gray-blue and red. The red lines could almost map a small downtown area, with five shooting off at clean angles from a central horizontal stripe. Some of them carry freight: lean black bars, flat sandwiches of beiges and browns. A fat, red bar streaks across the top. At the bottom, a second red bar doesn't quite reach the right border. It aborts with an alarming ragged tear. Amid the rest of the perfectly straight edges here, it's like a pimple on a model's face.

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