



An Artist's Reflections on Joan Ades' Recent Work

written by Scott Clugstone (for Indigo Spirit - Joan Ades solo show 2002)

This past summer, Joan explored the medium of paper-making, expecting a break from her usual mediums of monotype and painting. Beating and building abaca and flax fiber into sheets of exquisite paper, and applying a rich wash of indigo dyes to the deeply textured surfaces, something surprising happened. Paper-making became kin to print-making-- a wide range of values, rich hues contrasting with pale hinted tones, and the fun of serendipity, printmaker's luck. Combining a striking blend of abstract form with gentle flowing light fields, Joan has brought paper into prints, layering up with chine colle, (Chinese collage) at once primitive and contemporary, Asian-feeling, and lovely to look at.