

# A Young Colombian Artist

By Thomas Albright

The pristine, puristic look continues to be the stylistic hallmark at the Galleria Carl Van der Voort, 633 Battery street, but it is sensuously enriched in a current exhibition of paintings by Alberto Guttierrez.

A young Colombian artist, Guttierrez paints a little like Georges Braque might if he had lived into the era of plastic paints, flat surfaces and precisely outlined areas of broad, solid color.

Guttierrez uses an acetate-base paint in multiple layers that build up rich transparencies. He is a colorist of the first order, in off-primary hues closely keyed in harmonies of warm or cool. The build-up edges of his forms — softly bending gemoetric planes and elegantly stylized shapes which sometimes suggest elements of landscape — look a lot like collage, and the "message"

of Guttierrez work translates to illusionism vs. painting what collage says about object vs. art.

## COLOR

Most of Guttierrez' compositions are based upon solid areas of color which "frame" horizontal bands containing vertical color strips that are themselves frames for what end up as tiny bits of a "picture," in free-form, organic cut-out shapes which are perfectly flat.

In a few of his paintings, Guttierrez' "Borders" are so overwhelmingly large and flat that the eye never comes back to them, but most of his work beautifully united the concepts of picture and frame into a dynamic composition and elegant object.