

## If I Could Extend 2 Shows This Year

By -Todd Camplin



Trey Egan - Follow the Call, 2016, oil on canvas, 58 X 76 inches, at Cris Worley Fine Arts

If I could extend only two of this year's fall opening shows for just another week; they would be Graham Caldwell at Circuit 12 Contemporary and Trey Egan at Cris Worley Fine Arts. These two artists play in the realm of abstraction, but their approaches are quite different when it comes to medium and composition.

Trey Egan's work is partly about the material of paint. The colors, textures, and mixture of paint on canvas. Now plenty of artists has focused on the material of

paint. Egan transcends the physicality of the material with his intuitive understanding of complex composition. He understands that a great painting uses contrasting elements. His paintings have areas of calm contrasting with energetic gestures of paint. I have seen others attempt a level of complexity, rhythm, and automatic painting; but no one can come close to Egan's style and skills. For those that have seen past shows by Egan, you might notice that he has subtly shifted



Images courtesy of Graham Caldwell at Circuit 12 Contemporary

away from using a lot of earth tones to a more diverse palette. It also appears that many of the marks of paint seem to be fresh, with little or no repetition. Not including the color field areas, it is like he kept mixing with each stroke of paint.



Trey Egan - *Felt Nothing Until I Felt You*, 2017, oil on canvas, 60 x 60 inches, at Cris Worley Fine Arts

Graham Caldwell comes at abstract through his use of glass. Some of the works were more like funhouse mirrors, yet elegant in shape. Other mirrored pieces broke up the viewer's image like a cubist painting. I enjoyed the works titled, *Polychromatic Formation*. The sculptures' colored glass gave the effect that you were looking at oil rather than glass. When you look at his glass orb pieces just right, the reflections in the glass appear to keep repeating the shapes. You can get lost in just about any of Caldwell's objects. On my excursion with my ten-year-old to the gallery, he didn't want to leave. I couldn't stop thinking about the show myself.

These were not just shiny objects, but a game of transparent, translucent, and reflective play with the viewer's eyes.

Unfortunately for everyone, this is the last week for the shows. Both come down this weekend. However, with such captivating artworks, both Graham Caldwell and Trey Egan will surely return. Circuit 12 Contemporary's upcoming show is Builders, curated by Benjamin Terry. In an age where curators have gained ever more importance, Terry has played his part in creating some thought-provoking and quite fun exhibitions. Cris Worley Fine Arts' upcoming show will be sculptures by William Cannings and paintings Charlotte Smith, which a must see.