

Texas Oil: Painting and Money at Texas Contemporary Art Fair

By Seth Orion Schwaiger

Gallerist Cris Worley put all her bets on painter Patti Oleon, which turned out to be a pretty good idea. Worley's doubled down on that bet with an upcoming solo show scheduled for the artist opening November 22nd in Dallas. I won't say that Oleon's works are hyperrealistic, but they are very photo-like. They include the type of blurring and sliding exposure native to traditional film, a motif Oleon capitalizes on to invoke nostalgia. In the paintings at Texas Contemporary Oleon focused on symmetrical luxury interiors. Interestingly, it wasn't readily clear whether the symmetry was a product of post-production image manipulation, or the original state of the pristine environment. For my own tastes, I valued the works that broke out of the formula and demonstrated an *approximate* symmetry or an unusual angle over those that seemed kaleidoscopically perfect.



Patti Oleon | *Mirrors & Lights*, 2010, oil on panel, 2010, 48 x 34 inches. Courtesy of Cris Worley Fine Arts



Patti Oleon | *Plant*, 2009, oil on panel, 36 x 48 inches. Courtesy of Cris Worley Fine Arts