

Fran O'Neil at John Davis Gallery

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Fran O'Neill, subject of her second solo show at the John Davis Gallery in Hudson, New York, was a recent recipient of a Joan Mitchell Foundation grant. Her latest series is a breakthrough: these sumptuous, all-over abstractions built of mind-bogglingly intricate details are oceanic in their fusion of decorative and labor intensity. Like the ocean, there is slow evolution and constant undulation. The little teeth-like tesserae in *Reel* are negative shapes, revealing the white ground of the canvas exposed from the painstakingly filled-in spaces between. The impact is somewhere between the aboriginal painting of O'Neill's native Australia and Gustav Klimt. Mitchell, one feels, would have approved.