

Galleries

By Jessica Dawson

Curious Mix of Polish and Flaw

■ Two German artists make for an odd couple at Goethe. Nicola Staeglich paints bands of oil paint behind panels of Plexiglas. The effect is Mark Rothko crossed with Gerhard Richter's squeegee paintings. As for texture, hers have none: Their reflective surfaces destroy her paint's tactility. Wulf Kirschner, on the other hand, is all about touch. His metal panels made from welded shipbuilding steel seem to have emerged from the Pleistocene era. Inflected with bumps and striations that look as old as igneous rock, his works make a peculiar counterpoint to Staeglich's polish. Both are very interesting but seem to suffer by comparison.

"Lichtbogen/Arc d'Light" at the Goethe-Institut, 812 Seventh St. NW, Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 202-289-1200, through Jan. 31. www.goethe.de/washington.

Nicola Staeglich's works of oil, above, contrast with Wulf Kirschner's metal panels of welded shipbuilding steel.

Readers are advised to call ahead to art galleries around the holidays. Schedules for many change during the week of Christmas and New Year's.



GOETHE-INSTITUT