

KATE SHEPHERD

Friend of a Friend

November 19, 2009 – January 6, 2010

Galería Elvira González continues the season with a solo exhibition by American artist Kate Shepherd (New York, 1961). This is her first solo exhibition in Spain and features eleven oil paintings on wood and a suite of four drawings.

After receiving a grant from the Chinati Foundation in 1996, Kate Shepherd abandons her first works, drawings of animals and flowers in small format, to concentrate on geometric compositions. It is actually at this point that the beginning of Kate Shepherd's work as we know it today can be established.



Red Slope Sea, Extension, 2009
142,2 x 213,4 cm.
Óleo y esmalte sobre madera

Her work, of reduced vocabulary, not for that reason simple, is composed of two layers. The first, with monochrome backgrounds, painted in vibrant colors, which the lacquer gives them shine, creating smooth surfaces that as Kate Shepherd says gives the appearance more of a door or wall than a painting. The second layer is geometric constructions with fine lines that stand out in lighter tones on the backgrounds. These structures, always with straight lines, have been evolving from simple rectangular forms, complicating themselves towards compositions that look like architectures until they are curved and twisted, playing with continuous and discontinuous lines. In spite of the apparent rigidity, they are delicate works that trap the spectator between their grids.

Kate Shepherd's work is usually related to minimalism and there is no doubt that she maintains a close dialogue with the American artists of the sixties, in this case the adjective minimalist must be understood as a synonym of rigor and clarity in the execution.

Another element to take into account is the compositional. Almost all the works in the exhibition are made up of diptychs and triptychs. From one to the other panel, the lines run without interruption.

This exhibition has been titled Kate Shepherd *Amiga de un Amigo (Friend of a Friend)* as an example of the relationship that, with this first exhibition, is established between her and the Galería Elvira González.