

# Art New England

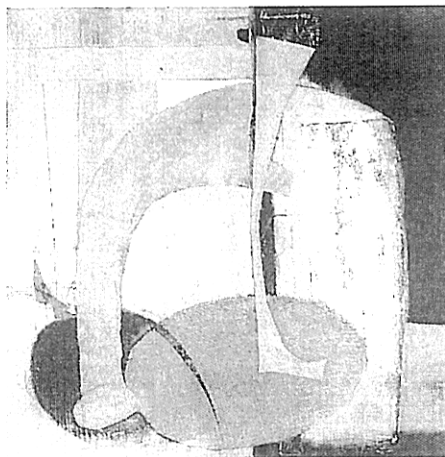
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Nahcotta/Portsmouth, NH

www.nahcotta.com

## **CAROL GOVE: RECENT WORK**

This modest show of seventeen abstract mixed media works on panel and paper emphasizes composition, balance, rhythmic interplay, and formal relationships. Clearly rooted in the still-evolving collage tradition of George Braque, these medium-size compositions incorporate cut and torn paper and fabric. The forms defined by textured collage surfaces sometimes coincide with and sometimes defy those of the painted surfaces, making for some enjoyable eye-play.



Carol Gove, *Seated*, mixed media on wood, 25 x 25", 2003. Courtesy of Nahcotta Gallery.

Typically the compositions involve overlapping rectangles that interact in a planar recession implying spatial depth. In *Valley Floor* (2003), a tiny red-orange rectangle pushes forward from a planar backdrop of green rectangles, not only by virtue of the push-pull of its complementary color effect but also physically, as it coincides with one of the applied collage elements. But there is also a Mondrian-like attention to balance, and one gets the feeling that the artist justifies every mark with an inner sense of visual decorum.

Occasionally the works bear the titles of objects by which they were inspired: barn doors, buildings, reclining figures. A good example of this group is *Standing* (2002), which may be read as a figure dressed in blue. One of the few works in the show to stray from the motif of interlocking or overlapping rectangles, its organic composition and larger size (36 1/2 x 21 1/2") give it a presence that sets it apart from its neighbors. Perhaps an "artist" (he wears a black beret), the figure is also understood as a lively interplay between the various blues of his body and the warm tones—reds through yellows—that surround and punctuate his form.

*Robert R. Craven*