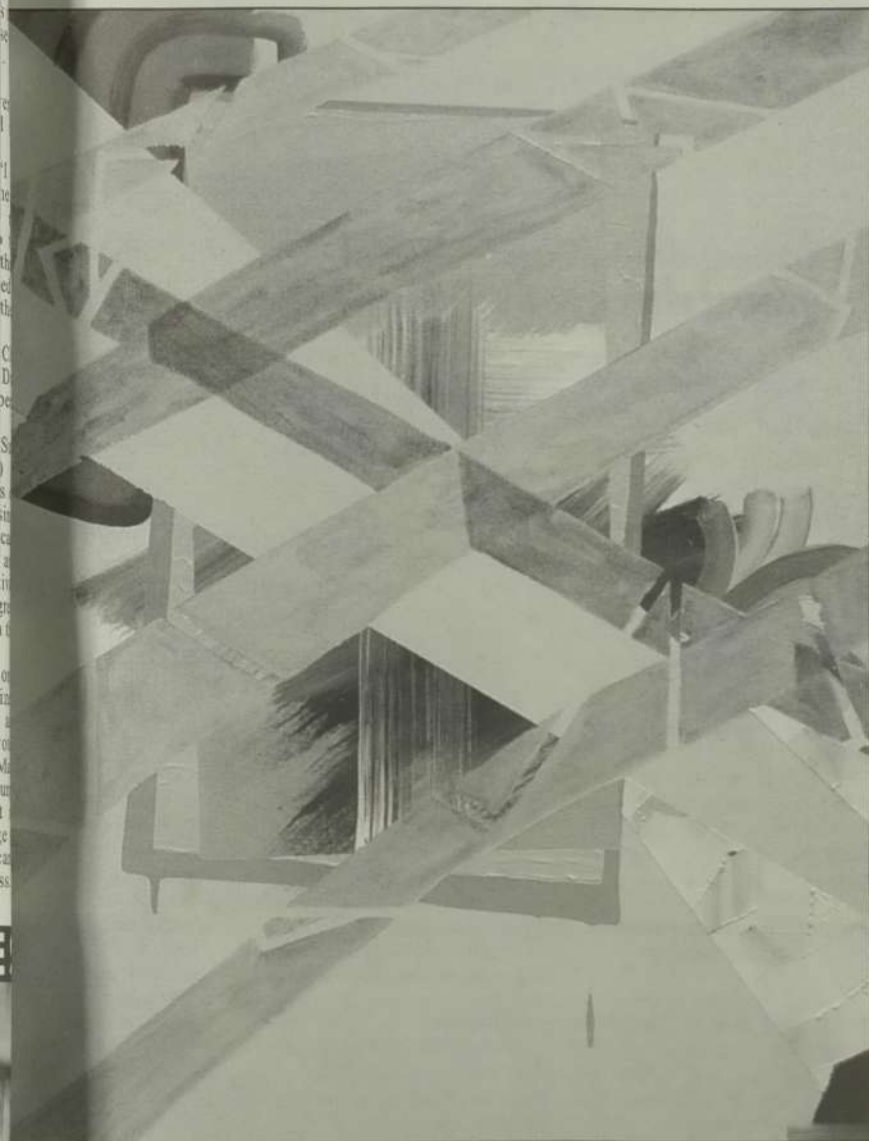


# Abstract art epitomized by bright color choices

Los Angeles artist Max Lesser's paintings are now being shown in the Alexander Gallery on campus until June 13 as the second of the two exhibits this spring



## Emily Walters

Arts & Culture Editor

Bright, whimsical colors and abstract simplicity set against canvas backdrops hang in the Alexander Gallery inside Niemeyer Hall.

The solo exhibition of Los Angeles-based artist Max Lesser came to the campus Monday, May 5.

The use of geometric shapes unites the group of pieces, combining carefully textured lines to create an intriguing display.

In one painting, the jagged, arching lines of sunny yellow and pumpkin orange – spread upon a neutral tan – seem to spawn the illusion of looking through a tunnel. The symmetry of the two bold colors assists in providing balance amid varying angles.

Another painting looks like a man peering disapprovingly through a fuchsia and coral window, his rectangular face coldly sneering.

Or perhaps, on second glance, it shows a couple of baskets resting neatly on their sides, providing a frame with their handles around a few scaled snakes.

I believe that is part of the beauty of Lesser's work – the fact that what it symbolizes is dependent on the beholder, because it is able to represent a myriad of ideas.

For me, what really takes the cake is the painting that reminds me of a scrapbook page, overlapped by bars of green bamboo, contrasting perfectly with a cornucopia of layered tones. It makes me think of the natural world in direct opposition to a craft that ironically uses a great deal of paper – made from green trees.

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Altogether, the entire array of oil and acrylic paintings light up the rather plain gallery room with Lesser's shining palette – ranging from small amounts of

distinctive blacks to natural green to blinding mustard, and everything in between.

Titled "Between here or there is better than neither here nor there," the show will continue until June 13.

The Alexander Gallery's hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

This untitled piece shows how Lesser utilizes rough, lines in his work.

Thick lines surround what could be looked at as a scaled snakes.

Interesting shapes create the semblance of a tunnel.

