

# Susan Hobbs

Patrick Howlett

*the higher you get the higher you get*

11 December 2008 to 24 January 2009



Patrick Howlett: *plastic unity of existence*, 2008, tempera on panel, 34 x 47 cm

Patrick Howlett's first solo exhibition at the gallery features multi-composition watercolour paintings on paper and small format egg tempera paintings on panel. This series continues the artist's exploration of geometric abstraction and the logic of composition, as well as the tenuous narrative-generating relationship of form to meaning. The digitally generated compositions are derived from their titles, yet are rendered abstractly, recalling the reductivist aesthetic strategies of early modernism. The title "the higher you get the higher you get" is a mountain climbing expression, its use here inspired by the writings and late paintings of Lawren Harris. Throughout Harris's writing, phrases like 'cosmic order', 'changeless harmony' and 'universal mind' embrace language so unquestionably of a previous critical paradigm (although also recalling the romanticism of the 1960s) that for Howlett, they solicit curious inquiry.

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