

MUSEUMS • GALLERIES

Art

Recent works by Philadelphia's Kocot and Hatton go on display.

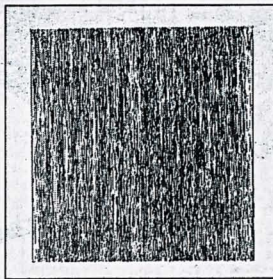
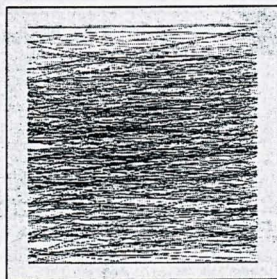
A couple's intimate abstracts

By Edith Newhall
FOR THE INQUIRER

Even in an art world peppered with twosomes and collectives such as Christo and Jeanne-Claude or the photographers Bernd and Hilla Becher, the Philadelphia-based artists who have collaborated as Kocot and Hatton for nearly four decades stand out.

For the last seven years, this wife-and-husband team has been painting and drawing in the dark in a semi-awake state, rising separately during the night to attend to their various pieces.

As with their earlier efforts, Marcia Kocot and Tom Hatton's recent abstract paintings and drawings do not necessarily reveal their process. This is largely because the two prepare their canvases (linen stretched over birch panels and gessoed) and paper (with a template over it) dur-



Marcia Kocot and Tom Hatton's paintings and drawings are on display at Larry Becker Contemporary Art.

ing the day, so that the only aspect of their work left to chance is the gesture created by application of oil stick to canvas or pen to paper.

Still, even viewers who didn't know how these pieces were made would probably discern a trancelike quality in the rubbed

surfaces of the paintings or the tenuous, slightly skittery character of the ink drawings of lines. The paintings and drawings also resonate with an intimacy that seems slightly unusual for such abstract work. Perhaps it stems from the overlays of markings by two individual but mentally sim-

patico hands.

I was disappointed that their *Meditations, 2001-2006*, a collection of 13 videos, was not being run on a monitor. (Instead, the DVDs themselves are displayed on a shelf mounted to the wall.) Two-minute excerpts suggest that these videos' repetitive, romantic images of the effects of weather and light on nature are as mesmerizing as anything else Kocot and Hatton have done. The videos can be purchased at the gallery, and an album of stills has been provided for the curious, but the real thing would have added another dimension to this poetic show.

* Larry Becker Contemporary Art, 43 N. Second St. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Information: 215-925-5389 or www.artnet.com/lbecker.html. Through May 20.