

These art gallery shows in Philly will help brighten your January

*Color and thoughts on color dominate two winter shows.
...a rainbow rendered in white at Larry Becker Contemporary Art.*

by Edith Newhall for the *Inquirer* 'GALLERIES' January 9, 2020

A rainbow in white

Wife-and-husband collaborators Kocot and Hatton (Marcia Kocot and Tom Hatton) give themselves intriguing conceptual challenges. For their new show "Thoughts," at Larry Becker Contemporary Art, they've come up with one of their best yet.

The 25 paintings here represent their sensations of particular colors, and responses to those colors — but all the works are rendered in white acrylic paint.

There is some logic to this effort when you take into account that each work is named for a pigment used in paint: Helios Purple, Scheveningen Orange, Malachite Green, Madder Lake Deep, and others.

It's likely that Kocot and Hatton are referencing artworks by others that employed a specific hue.



LARRY BECKER CONTEMPORARY ART
Kocot and Hatton's painting, "Cadmium Green Light (20 Jun '18)"

Looking at the thin vertical lines and right-veering diagonal lines in *Antwerp Blue* (sd 8 Oct 2019), I immediately thought of Van Gogh's 1889 painting *Rain* in the Philadelphia Museum of Art's collection.

Van Gogh lived in Antwerp briefly before moving to Paris to join his brother, which seems like a clue. I'm happy to imagine that one of the blues in *Rain* could have been the Antwerp Blue pigment, concocted by a German chemist around 1704.

A curtain-like, vertical section of thinly applied white in *Venetian Red* (sd 24 Feb 2019) made me think of Susan Rothenberg's semi-figurative paintings, especially her all-red ones.

I'm still pondering *Cadmium Green Light* (20 Jun '18), named after the perfect hue for a newly unfurled leaf. No particular artwork has come to mind, but its all-over diagonal gashes of white do suggest a blustery March day.

As in past series, the artists worked separately on individual paintings but consulted as the pieces came together.

Through Feb. 15 at Larry Becker Contemporary Art, 43 N. 2nd St., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Fri. and Sat., and by appointment, 215-925-5389, artnet.com/galleries/larry-becker-contemporary