



## Studio Visit: Jodi Hays

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Jodi Hays is the kind of artist who takes play very seriously. I visited her at her East Nashville studio last Thursday in the middle of a daylong downpour, and made quick friends with Lefty, her polydactyl cat with super-sized paws. Jodi's paintings are abstract but contained. No matter how large or seemingly plain the canvas seems on first appearance, there is always an underlying current of subtlety and restraint.

In an exhibit of her paintings at Threesquared Gallery last February, curator Sara Estes wrote this about Jodi's work:

*While the theme of place is certainly palpable in Jodi Hays' work, notions of the non- place and exile push to the forefront with equal force. The spaces Hays depicts are not those of home and habitation, but rather that of temporality, upheaval, and exclusion...In these works, Hays employs physical space as a metaphor for the psychological spaces we navigate.*