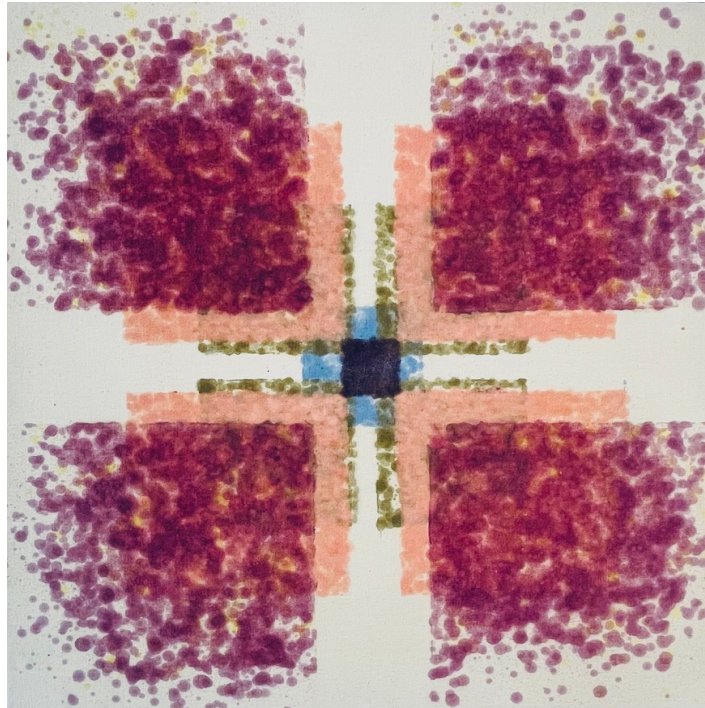


# CONNERSMITH.



**The Washington Post**  
**July 30, 2023**

**Howard Mehring**

Howard Mehring's "Radiant," a show of paintings by the Washington colorist. (Howard Mehring/Connersmith)

Connersmith's show of 1961-62 paintings by Washington colorist Howard Mehring (1931-1978) is titled "Radiant" after a painting that intriguingly combines the softly stippled colors of the artist's early style with the hard-edged, rectangular motifs of his later output. It is one of several surprising ones in the exhibition, which spotlights unexhibited pieces. Like earlier installments of the gallery's ongoing rediscovery of Mehring's short career, the exhibition includes paintings that had never been stretched for display.

"Radiant" is striking, yet not as surprising as "Untitled (Quatrefoil)," whose curved forms are nearly unprecedented in the artist's work. (There may be one other Mehring quatrefoil painting, but its whereabouts are unknown, says curator Jamie Smith.) The picture is

# CONNERSMITH.

center-focused and symmetrical, as is typical of these canvases. But it has rounded shapes in bold red and yellow, set off by an almost-neutral gray background, that pop loudly rather than undulate quietly.

“#27 (Black/Gray Cruciform)” is similar to “Radiant” in composition, yet significantly different in effect. It’s the most open of these pictures, with a white void at its center and four arrays of gray and black L-shapes that are stacked to provide an illusion of depth. Where Mehring’s allover paintings appear physically impenetrable, this one seems to beckon the viewer to enter. It’s an inviting path, and one that Mehring could have fruitfully traveled further.

**Howard Mehring: Radiant Through Aug. 5 at Connersmith, 1013 O St.  
NW. [connersmith.us.com](http://connersmith.us.com). 202-588-8750.**