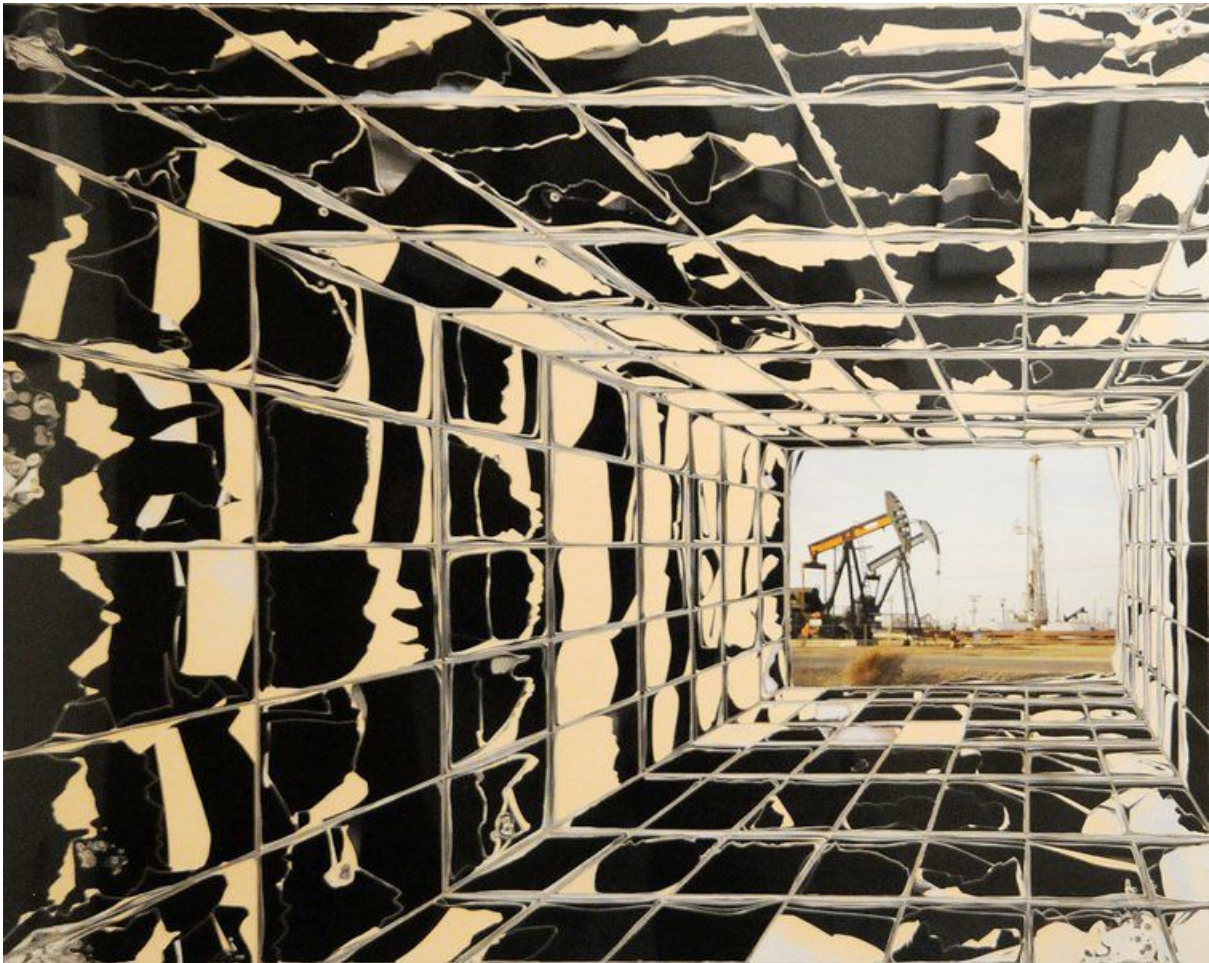


An abstract environment on display at art center

By Kelly Dickey | The Herald Bulletin
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Don Knight

"Tunnel Vision" is among Nolan Preece's creations that will be on display at the Anderson Center for the Arts through May 31.

ANDERSON — The textured, grooved black and white lines are a stark contrast to the industrial imagery of the oil rigs they surround.

The chemigram technique — in which an image is made by painting with chemicals on light-sensitive paper — frames the drab sight of 20 oil refineries.

“A lot of his pieces are based on environmental issues, but there’s so much…” Anderson Center for the Arts Executive Director Deborah Stapleton said. “There are a number of pieces that speak to the environment in the show, but others are not necessarily environmental at all.”

Visitors can examine abstract prints by Nolan Preece through May 31 at the arts center, 32 W. 10th St.

Preece’s work is created through a process of mix painting, printmaking and photography that’s known as chemigram. The process allows Preece, who is based in Reno, Nevada, to make complex graphic structures with chemicals, which creates a semi-controlled chaos in the art.

“He considers himself a painter, photographer and printmaker,” Collections Curator Stephanie Michaels said. “All in one.”

Preece’s work is strongly influenced by the land and the desert in particular. He spent time as a river guide in the Grand Canyon and at one point he worked as a field photographer for environmental impact statements.

For more than 30 years, he’s built a portfolio of abstract prints.

Stapleton said the gallery has featured mixtures of contemporary pieces and abstract art over the years, but it hasn’t focused as much on abstraction as a form. Given the success of the center’s abstract exhibition last year, Stapleton wanted to expand.

“Also his is a photography-based process,” she said. “We know how popular photography is in this area and we wanted to try to encourage the photographers to think in a different way, to look at a different process of what they can do.”

Preece's work varies from using angular imagery to textured layers, and from muted tones to an interesting mixture of colors.

Soon his abstract pieces won't be the only ones hanging in the galleries.

Work from Hoosier contemporary abstract artists will be on display beginning Thursday and continuing through June 22. A reception with the "Abstract II" artists will be held 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. April 23 at the arts center.

Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Admission is \$4, \$2.50 for age 55 and older, \$2 for students and free for age 4 and younger. Admission is half off Tuesdays and free the first Sunday of each month.