

**CHARLOTTE JACKSON FINE ART  
PRESENTS:**

## **Helen Pashgian**

**New Work**



**June 5 - June 30, 2009**

Looking at Helen Pashgian's recent works, I realize that I don't want to know how they were constructed, how she achieved this or that effect, or what materials she used. Granted, these pieces insistently provoke such questions, but I would rather suspend my inquiry because the key to Pashgian's art lies in its mystery. Better as the poet John Keats said of Shakespeare, better "to remain in uncertainties, mysteries, and doubts, with no irritable reaching after fact or reason." Better to let each work create its own world, to entice us without giving up its secrets.

Mining the post-minimal tradition, true to industrial materials like polyester resin and sheet metal, Pashgian explores the territory between two and three dimensions. She restricts her vocabulary to clear and simple geometric figures and forms—curves, circles, parallel lines—a pared down, abstract version of Ferdinand Léger's visual language. These forms she suspends in nebulous atmospheres, making you wonder how much of what you see is real and how much illusory. Or whether that question even makes sense, since everything seems at once palpable and ghostly, tantalizingly out of reach.

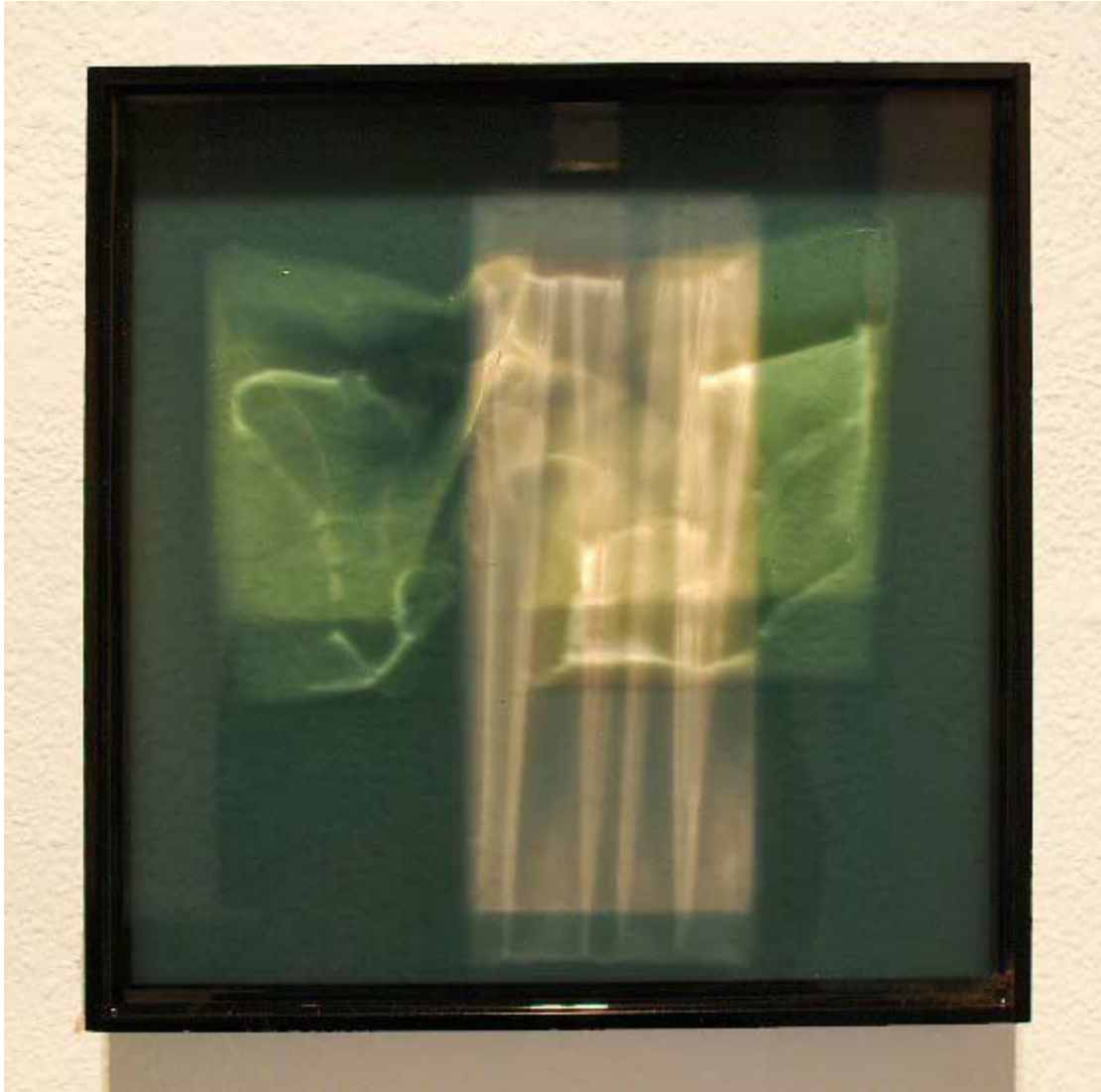
Sometimes Pashgian's new work behaves like objects. They hover in front of the wall without visible attachment, their sides wrapping seductively away from us. Other times they act like windows through which we perceive shapes—sharp or fuzzy, approaching or receding. Sheets of metal cascade down like sheets of water art-deco style. Motion approaches stillness, or stillness seems about to bestir itself. In any case, the work changes dramatically as we move around it. What looks from head on like a dark or a platinum band becomes, when seen at an angle, a tube disclosing a luminous but indeterminate glow. What seen head on looks like a floating black circle appears, when viewed obliquely, to tunnel back to an unknowable source. To experience this show, then, is to engage the body along with the eye.

Almost half a century ago Helen Pashgian began working in the California Light and Space movement, alongside artists like Peter Alexander, Larry Bell, Laddie John Dill, Robert Irwin, Craig Kauffman and DeWain Valentine.

Arden Reed  
Arthur and Fanny Dole Professor of English  
Pomona College







Untitled, 2009  
cast industrial material  
12 x 12 x 2 inches HP0018





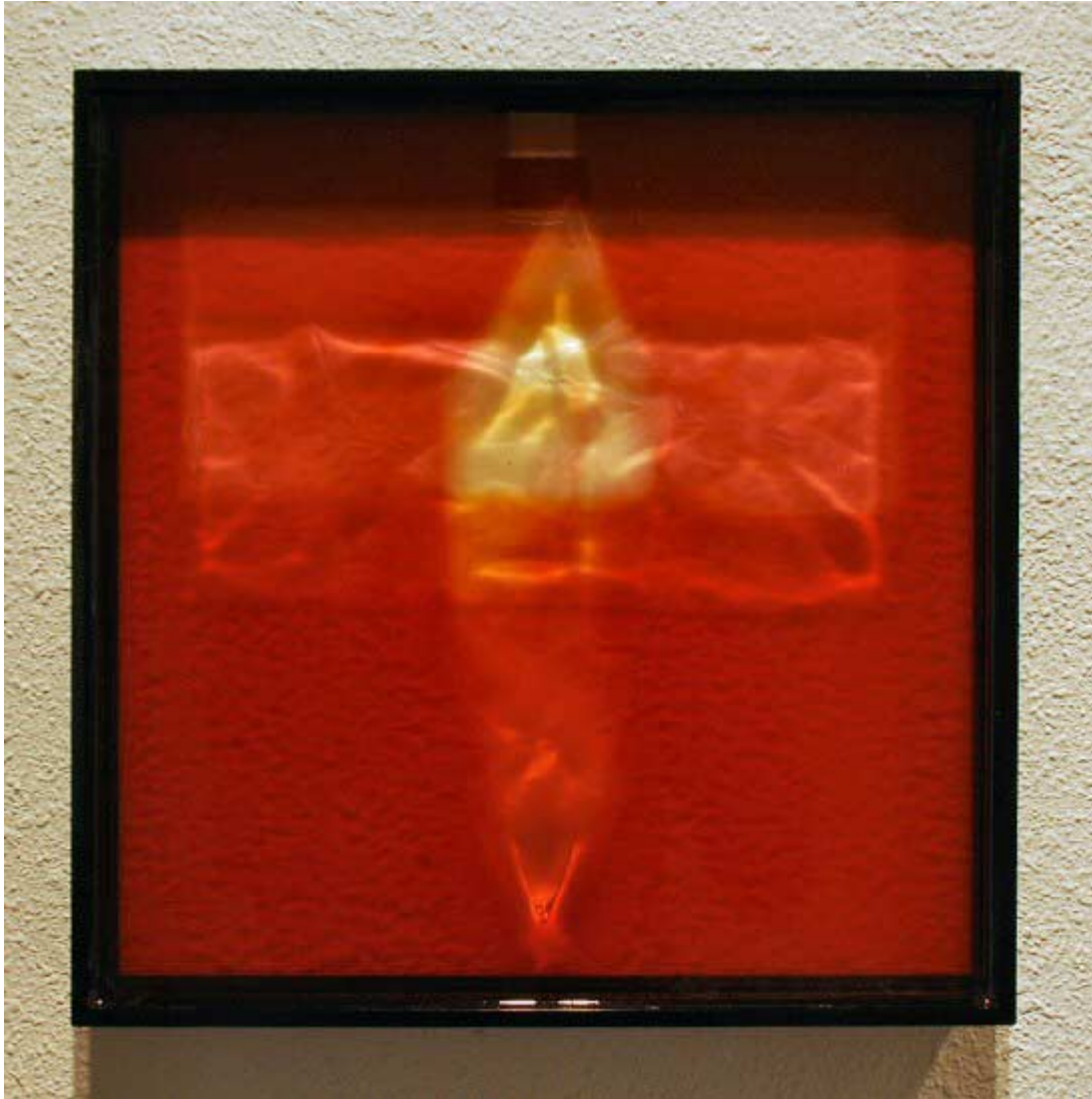
Untitled #8, 2006  
cast industrial material  
45 x 34.5 x 5.5 inches HP007



Untitled, 2007  
cast industrial material  
21 x 14.5 x 18 inches HP001







Untitled, 2009  
cast industrial material  
12 x 12 x 2 inches HP0016



Untitled, 2009  
cast industrial material  
12 x 12 x 2 inches HP0015



Untitled, 2009  
cast industrial material  
12 x 12 x 2 inches HP0010







Untitled, 2009  
cast industrial material  
12 x 12 x 2 inches HP0022





Untitled, 2009  
cast industrial material  
12 x 12 x 2 inches HP0023







Untitled, 2009  
cast industrial material  
12 x 12 x 2 inches HP0021





Untitled, 2009  
cast industrial material  
12 x 12 x 2 inches HP0020







Untitled, 2009  
cast industrial material  
12 x 12 x 2 inches HP0019





Untitled, 2009  
cast industrial material  
12 x 12 x 2 inches HP0014

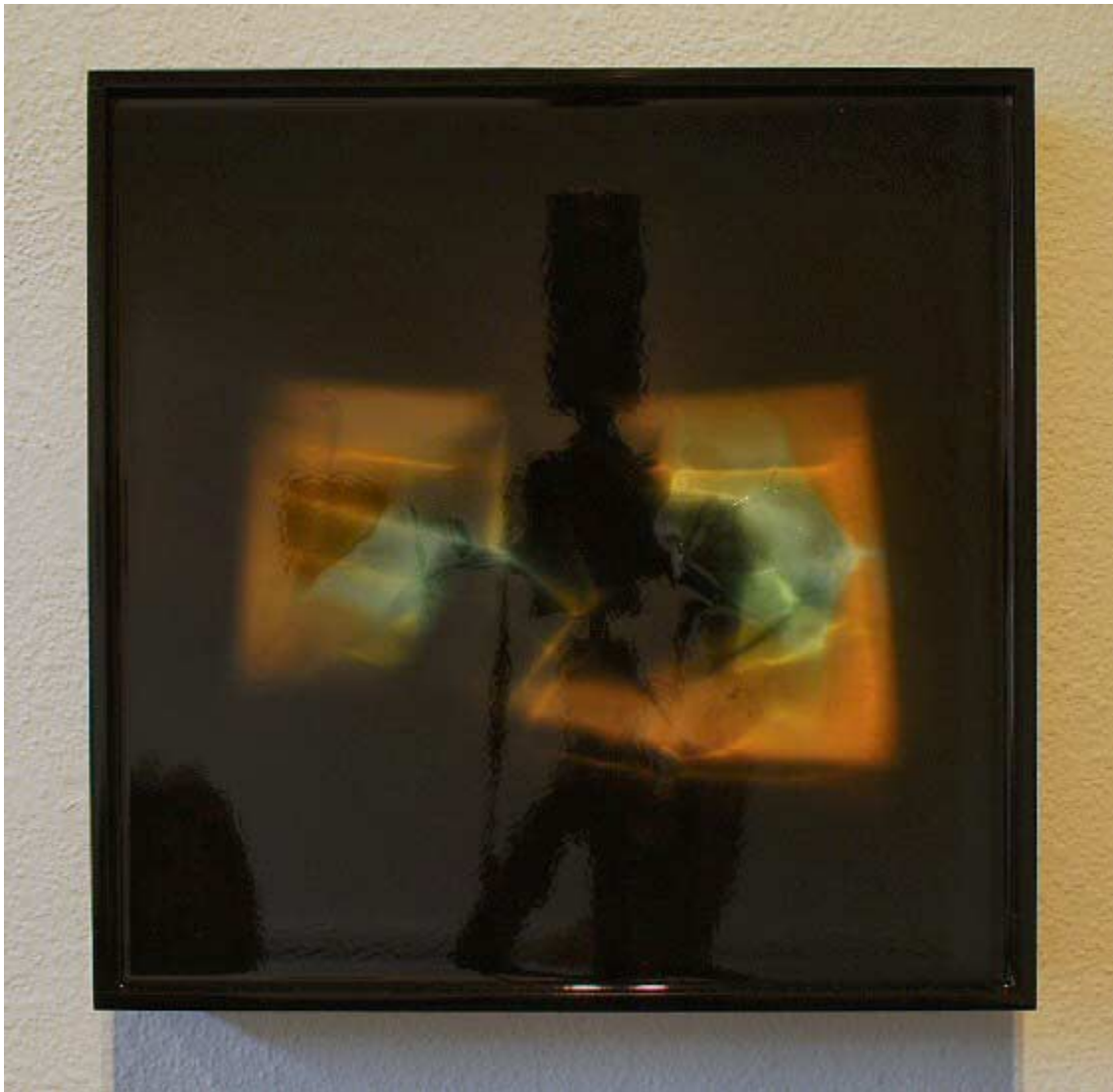






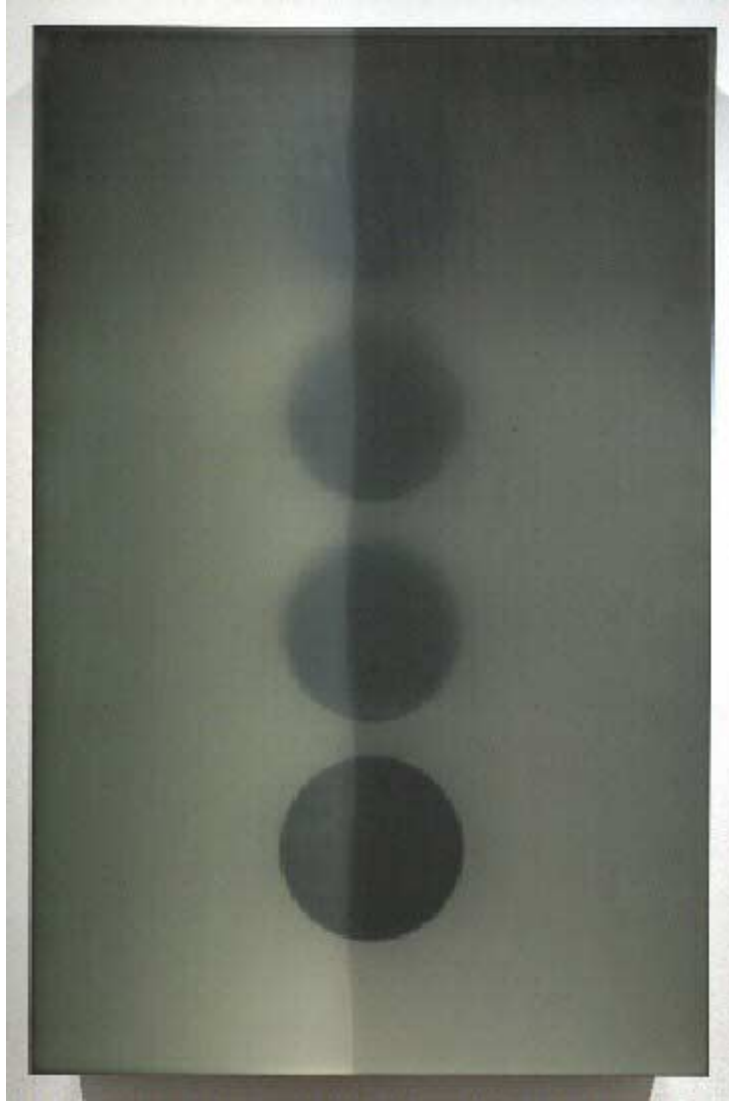
Untitled, 2009  
cast industrial material  
12 x 12 x 2 inches HP0024



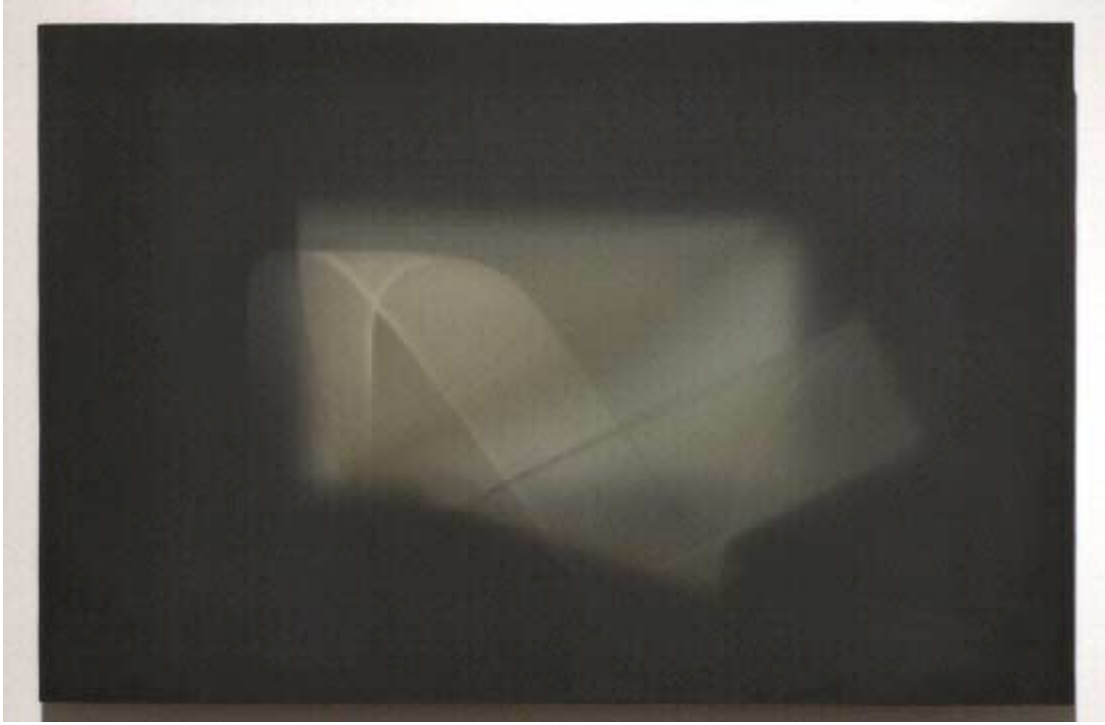


Untitled, 2009  
cast industrial material  
12 x 12 x 2 inches HP0017





Untitled #6, 2006  
Industrial Epoxy  
61 x 39 x 7 1/2 inches HP005



Untitled #5, 2006  
Industrial Epoxy  
30 x 45 x 4 3/4 inches HP008

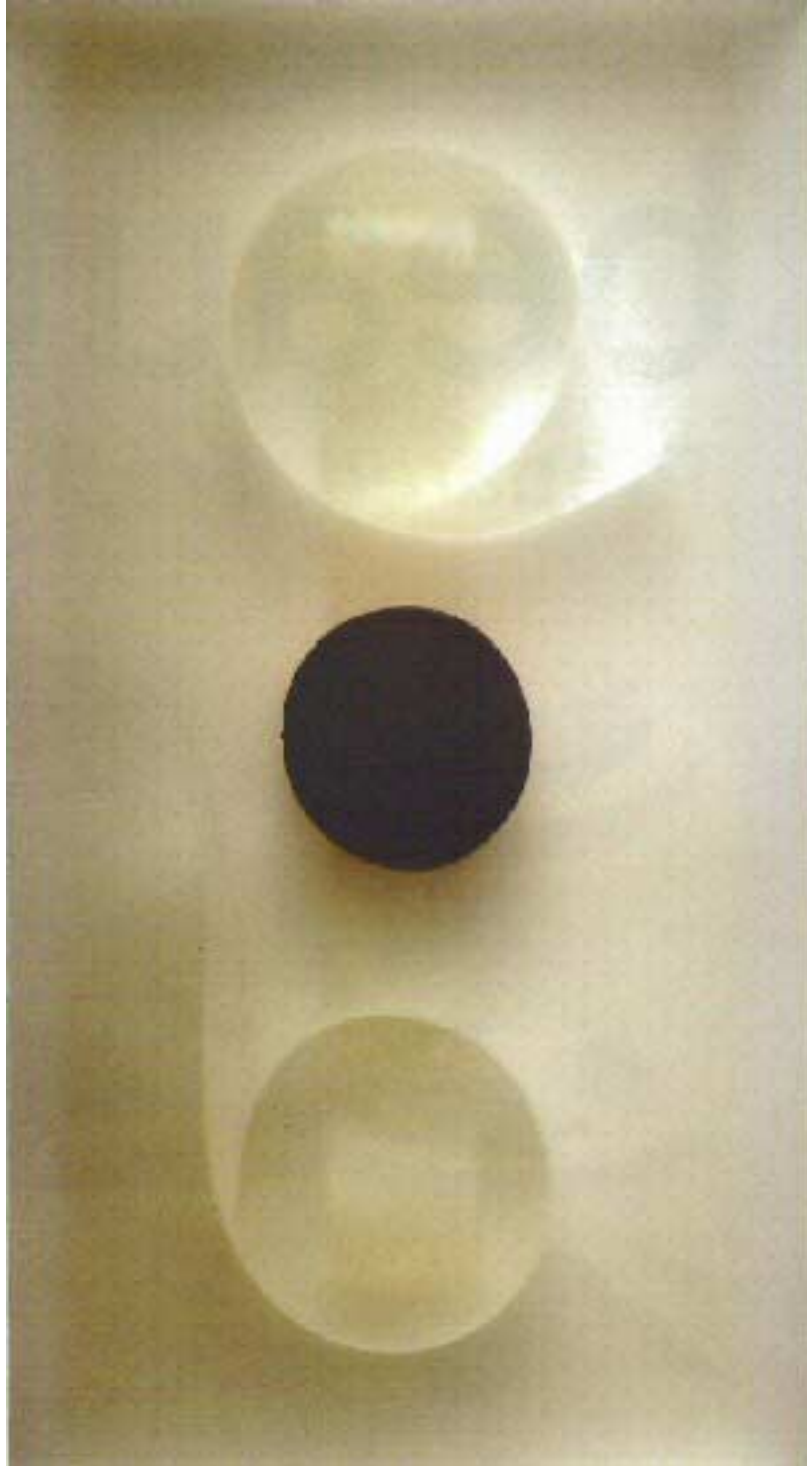


Untitled #11, 2006  
Industrial Epoxy and aluminum  
56 x 30 1/4 x 5 inches HP003





Untitled #4, 2006  
Acrylic, Industrial Epoxy, and Copper  
61 x 34 x 5 1/2 inches HP004



Untitled #10, 2006  
Mixed Media  
61 x 34 x 5 inches HP009

© 2009

## Charlotte Jackson Fine Art, Inc.

200 West Marcy Street, Suite 101, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Telephone: 505.989.8688 Fax: 505.989.9898

[cjfa@charlottejackson.com](mailto:cjfa@charlottejackson.com) - [www.charlottejackson.com](http://www.charlottejackson.com)