

Richard Mill (Galerie Jolliet, 279 Sherbrooke St. W. until Feb. 13) takes the familiar elements of abstract expressionism, such as squares, rectangles and other shapes and while preserving their integrity, manipulates them into unfamiliar and often striking arrangements. They also call on the gallery-goer to reassess his expectancies and prejudices.

All are untitled, all a mixture of oil and acrylic on canvas. The most effective ones are large, such as (see photo at left) the one with a white form and bars, that could be a sailboat on a lake. The bottom rectangle is a deep crimson, the upper square a dark maroon and the stripes indigo blue. The surfaces, as in a number of others, vibrate as one moves around and the unity of the whole comes from strands of color between the parts and the soft undulations of the outside forms. It's rewarding experience just to be in their presence.

LAWRENCE SABBATH