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Carol Gove: Built

At: Judi Rotenberg Gallery, through Oct. 29
617-437-1518, 222.judirotenberg.com

Constructions that hold up well

Carol Gove lives in rural New Hampshire, and her collaged paintings at Judi Rotenberg Gallery have the rugged allure of an old barn wall hung with tools. Textures fray, splinter, and crater. Simple shapes butt up against one another.

The works are bright and open in their palette. The circles, triangles, and rectangles moving against one another suggest something under construction (hence the exhibit's title, "Built"). The pale yellow triangle at the center of "Ascent" looks from afar like a road vanishing into the distance. Step close, and it flattens into two dimensions: A reddish circle is poised at the bottom of one slope.

An imaginative use of texture powers Gove's works. She tapes on fabric, then rips it off. In one passage of color there may be different grains, broken up with chips. Amid the more eye-catching tones and shapes, the shifts in texture surprise and suggest there's more at work here than you expect.