

reviews: new york

Edwin Schlossberg

Ronald Feldman Fine Arts

Edwin Schlossberg's inventive exhibition, "At the Moment," literally shone light on states of mind—among them, self-possession, focus, attachment, and certainty. He beamed a photographer's lamp at 22 paintings on aluminum panels, each 3 by 4 feet (all 2008). They blend evocative phrases like "You Being Alone" with abstract markings. Illuminating, exposing, and interrogating, the harsh lights trained the viewer's eye on these reflective surfaces until a thought-provoking interplay of word and image emerged.

The titles matched the stenciled words on the paintings, each starting with the word "you," such as *You Holding Onto Time*. But the words on the paintings are scattered over the surfaces and can be read in varying configurations, continually—and poetically—shifting meaning, as in "Time Holding Onto You." Accompanying these words are streams of parallel lines, painted freehand in clusters of white, silver, and black that intersect at various angles, suggesting different narrative lines and converging paths.

The relationship between text and imagery was more direct in other works. In *You Realized*, the words are paired with a loose web of wavy, silver lines evoking neurons. In *You Being Focused*, short white lines and red dots are aligned in three neat horizontal rows that could be read as text or a musical score.

One of the most successful was *You Considering Stillness*, which looks like a cellular matrix or a pattern of footprints in the snow. It glowed under the radiance of the lamp and offered a physical equivalent to the ephemeral state of "stillness." In this show,

Schlossberg, who is also the founder of ESI Design, a company that creates interactive exhibitions, gave viewers an acute experience of self-awareness, both mental and corporal.

—Hilarie M. Sheets



Edwin Schlossberg, *You Considering Stillness*, 2008, acrylic on aluminum, 36" x 48". Ronald Feldman Fine Arts.