The New York Times

ART IN REVIEW

Martin Myers and Simon Ungers

Sandra Gering 476 Broome Street SoHo Through Aug. 7

Martin Myers, a painter, and Simon Ungers, an architect and a sculptor, both produce playful but dry essays in geometric abstraction.

Painting on plywood panels 18 or 19 inches square, Mr. Myers engages in simple perspective games. He restricts his palette to black, white and gray and arranges flat, trapezoidal shapes to suggest box forms viewed in space. The pictures flip back and forth between literal, tautly composed flatness and illusory depth. You wonder what would happen if Mr. Myers dared to use color.

Mr. Unger's square brushed-aluminum low reliefs are heavily indebted to Robert Ryman. Each has square or rectangular parts cut out, bent back and screwed to the wall so that the primary plane hovers an inch from the wall. As with Mr. Myers's work, playfulness is checked by formalist caution, and you want something unexpected to happen. KEN JOHNSON

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 730
 FIFTH
 AVENUE

 NEW
 YORK
 NY
 10019

 TEL
 646
 336
 7183

 FAX
 646
 336
 7185

 WWW.GERINGLOPEZ.COM
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