

BARBARA MATHES GALLERY

The New York Times

ART & DESIGN

10 Galleries to Visit on the Upper East Side

By **HOLLAND COTTER** APRIL 16, 2015



Untitled works by Tadaaki Kuwayama, at the Barbara Mathes Gallery.

Agaton Strom for The New York Times

BARBARA MATHES GALLERY

Fastidiousness is the inescapable and intended impression made by the paintings of Tadaaki Kuwayama, who arrived in New York from Japan in 1958 and stayed. And the selection of early work here suggests that he anticipated Minimalism yet to come: four 1962 pieces pasted together from strips of cut paper on board aren't quite paintings but aren't sculptures either, and look machine-tooled until you are close enough to see some texture. Soon afterward came monochromatic paintings made with metallic spray paint. The surfaces are glass-smooth but the colors — complex pinks and yellow-greens — pulse and shift as you change position. The paintings are as solid as Donald Judd boxes but have a chromatic sensuality and ambiguity that most Minimalism avoided.