

ARTFORUM

CRITICS' PICKS 02.03.10

Dana Frankfort

INMAN GALLERY
3901 Main Street
January 15–March 6

With their bright palettes and rough rectangular forms, Dana Frankfort's latest canvases recall early Rothko. Hovering bodies of vivid colors, applied in jagged brushstrokes, pleasurably shock the system on a gray winter day. As in her previous works, Frankfort seeks to go beyond a formal interpretation of color and form through her incorporation of various words rendered in capital letters. Ubiquitous in her work for more than a decade, they are never straightforward. Filling up the canvas from top to bottom, her words seem the equivalent of screaming at the heavens in our digital age.

The artist singles out the elastic potential of her letterforms and teases subtlety out of surprising places. Titled "PICTURES," this exhibition explores subjective readings of words without specificity. Like Day-Glo interpretations of Color Field painting, a hazy world of emotion is all one has to contextualize *HEALTH* and *FITNESS* (all works 2009). *COMING* is a nearly blank white canvas, its titular word obscured to a faded hint of translucent yellow on a ground of neon orange. Many layers of color are painted beneath the surface; purples and yellows leak out at the edges of a panel mounted to a wooden frame. Frankfort shines a light on communication's foibles here, which seem obscure even in plain sight.



Dana Frankfort, *COMING*, 2009, oil on panel, 36 x 48".

— Sean Carroll



February 4, 2010

"Dana Frankfort: Pictures" Deftly skirting the edge of obnoxiousness, Dana Frankfort's paintings at Inman Gallery are brashly beautiful. Day-Glo orange has to be one of the toughest colors to use, unless you're painting a traffic cone or creating an homage to '60s psychedelia. But Frankfort skillfully and sparingly employs a range of luridly fluorescent hues in gorgeously brushy paintings. Loosely printed capital letters spelling out simple words like "LIFE," "NUTS" and "PEOPLE" become points of departure for Frankfort's paintings. The letters and words are overlaid and obscured with frantically brushed areas of color. The text keeps things off-kilter, imparting an edginess to indulgently painterly wallows in color. Through March 6. 3901 Main, 713-526-7800. — **KK**