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Francesca
Fuchs' Framed
Drawing: Flying
Cat is rendered
in a childish
style with the
muted tones of
the rest of her
work.

Talley Dunn Gallery

As the name suggests, it's made of No. 2 pencils, the kind we all used in grade school and still deploy for drawings or taking notes.

However, Drenk makes of them mirrored and stacking miniature huts. It's an exploration of how we dwell imaginatively and how much we long for cozy nooks and curved space. She cuts and shapes them in ways that make us pause and long to experience the pleasure of tactile life.

Drenk's entire exhibition is a splendid romp in "thing-ness" and a cheering antidote to our overly digitized environment.

Through Nov. 10 at Galleri Urbane, 2277 Monitor St., Dallas. Hours: noon to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays. Free. 432-386-0590. galleriurbane.com.

Francesca Fuchs at Talley Dunn

Francesca Fuchs' "Paintings of Paintings" at Talley Dunn Gallery engages us in the delight and play of memory.

Fuchs explores artwork from her childhood, including that of her parents and other relatives, and reconfigures it to explore how the past remains seductive, even as it is recalibrated to enter the current gallery scene.

Her reiteration of specific works intimates far more than a mere commemoration of objects in specific rooms. It's obvious that for her, they represent a familial channel of household chumminess that few other artifacts could match.

Fuchs, a native of Germany who lives and works in Houston, shows us wildly disparate images, ranging from childishly rendered cats (*Framed Drawing: Flying Cat*, 2010) to sophisticated abstract work (*Framed Print: Biese*, 2010).

However, all the pieces are uniformly muted. They're subjected to a "sameness" that allows them to coalesce and be considered conjured objects — the eponymous "paintings of paintings."

The artist's careful method of paring back acrylic paints until her works appear semitranslucent is a trope for the quality of memory and the manner in which it elides detail.

Through Saturday at Talley Dunn Gallery, 5020 Tracy St., Dallas. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Free. 214-521-9898. talleydunn.com.

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