

Entertainment

Reviews

Art: Reginato; Lachaise; 'Modern French Masters'

By MIMI CROSSLEY
Post Art Writer

Peter Reginato is a young American sculptor originally from Texas who now lives and works in New York City. For nearly a decade, his welded-steel works have been exhibited at Tibor de Nagy in Manhattan, and in a number of group shows in museums and galleries across the country. One of his pieces now stands in the permanent collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and an earlier work — the result of a competition — stands downtown by Allen Center.

Reginato's current exhibition at the Watson/Willour Gallery, 2000 Peden, is the second act of a new theme launched a couple of years ago. He had been working in an increasingly open format of thin and thick elements, welding them together in corral-like compositions. Then he began exploring cut-out shapes that seemed straight out of the natural world, via a bit of Cubist adjustment: leaf shapes, stems, accordion pleats.

Tall and thin, the works appeared as a homage to Leger: machine-made materials in abstract Cubist images. But now, Reginato has opened up his forms a bit, keeping the cut-out shapes while returning to the bigger and broader round-up compositions. Somehow, he manages to achieve intelligence and ease in these large works, while reworking the modernist tradition. That's a lot to take on, and Reginato does it well.

The show at Watson/Willour is in tandem with abstract paintings by Sherron Francis, also from New York. She also shows at Tibor de Nagy. The exhibition continues to Feb. 16.

