

Arts & Reviews

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2006

Bronlyn Jones

At: Barbara Krakow Gallery, 10 Newbury St.,
through Jan. 25. 617-262-4490,
www.barbarakrakowgallery.com.

Lighting the imagination

If Rosa is all flash and no substance, Bronlyn Jones, who has work up at Barbara Krakow Gallery, is the opposite. Her drawings and paintings are small and minimalist; that lays the groundwork for quiet, focused, and acute observation. She works in series, inviting the viewer to search for similarities and distinctions, the way you might look at twins.

The drawing series "Deconstructing Mondrian" starts with Jones's own study of a Mondrian painting; she then made a study of her study, and so on. Each subsequent study is more pared down. Little pencil marks and erasures stand out like freckles or a lock of hair. The series as a whole is at once an homage to the great modernist and a means of letting him go.

Her paintings of black-and-white planes on clean maple panels are serenely minimalist. Spending time with one is like a meditation. Each is clean and open. As with the drawings, there are tiny imperfections that, in this bare-bones context, light the viewer's imagination; a bubble of paint along the top ridge can carry the personality of an entire work. Jones does not impose her vision on her viewers; instead, she takes us by the hand and asks, "What do you see?"

By Cate McQuaid

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

BARBARA

KRAKOW GALLERY