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In the galleries: Brotman and Cobb



Stephanie Cobb's "At Rest," included in her exhibit "On Closeness" at 355 Pod Space. (Stephanie Cobb)

Review by Mark Jenkins

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Dana Brotman and Stephanie Cobb are figurative painters whose portraits of people, whether real or imagined, boast expressive faces and intriguing poses. Yet color may be the most

distinctive facet of both D.C. artists' current shows: Brotman's "Unleaving (To Hold in Mind What Is and What Was)" at Touchstone Gallery and Cobb's "On Closeness" at the VisArts-programmed 355 Pod Space.

Cobb's pictures depict people seated or lying, sometimes in twos or accompanied by a cat. The mostly bright hues follow a standard scheme: peach flesh tones and red-orange clothing and furnishings, set off by areas of watery aqua and darker blue. The imagery is softly realistic, but areas of pure color can be smeary and mottled, sometimes akin to the qualities of batik-dyed fabric. If these quiet domestic scenes offer a beguiling warmth, much of that can be attributed to their palette.

Stephanie Cobb: On Closeness Through Oct. 29 at 355 Pod Space, 355 Rockville Pike, Rockville. visartscenter.org. 301-315-8200.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/art/2023/10/20/art-gallery-shows-dc-area/>