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The New York Times

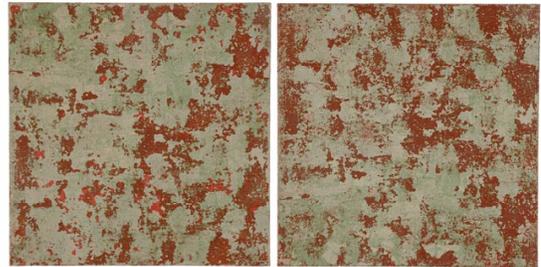
Art Guide

By Ken Johnson

May 2, 2003

RAINER GROSS, "*Doppelganger/Contact Paintings*," Axel Raben, 526 West 26th Street, (212) 647-9064 (through May 24).

This New York-based German artist makes sensuous abstract paintings by a process of his own invention that involves fusing two paintings face to face and then pulling them apart. Exhibited singly or as diptychs, the paintings look like flaking wall sections. They have lush, supersaturated colors and dry, crusty surfaces that look like velvet from a distance.



Cassardi Twins, 2001, 36 x 72 inches
oil and pigments on linen,