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OBJECT LESSONS / NEAT THINGS ON VIEW AROUND TOWN: Gallery spotlight on Georgia master

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Genevieve Arnold's legacy to the Georgia art scene is undeniably rich. Her artistic career spanned nearly 50 years and her many leadership roles are recognized as significant contributions to the establishment of the city's arts community.

"Genevieve Arnold: Paintings and Drawings," currently on view at Sandler Hudson Gallery, offers more than a dozen works, primarily from the last 10 years of Arnold's life. With work in the High Museum of Art and the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C. (among other prominent collections), the late artist's love of landscape and abstraction produced a prolific body of drawings and paintings.

Arnold's breadth of experimentation and evolution of styles led from the figurative to the non-representational, yet her art continued to evoke earth, water and sky.



Her sophisticated touch is evident in "Blue," a large mixed-media canvas executed in 2004. It presents a fluid, abstracted landscape. Vertical strips of thin paper add a linear element to subtle, sculptural contours and an undulating exploration of hues. The work is filled with both power and fragility, achieved in part by the artist's finesse with mixed media elements (oil paint, tracing paper mounted on gessoed canvas), combined with a keen handling of color, texture and the crisp, barely visible lines formed of straight edges.

The effects are both earthly and ethereal, forming a pleasurable tension in a composition that suggests ocean, torrid skies, topographical views taken from a great distance.

Other medium and small-scale mixed media works and drawings are equally elegant, both minimalist and lush, highlighting Arnold's mastery of drawing, mark-making and color.

"Genevieve Arnold: Paintings and Drawings." Through Oct. 20. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays; Saturdays noon-5 p.m. and by appointment. Prices: \$1,800-\$30,000. Sandler Hudson Gallery, 1009-A Marietta St. N.W. 404-817-3300; www.sandlerhudson.com.