

ART REVIEWS

By SUSAN KANDEL
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Infectious Spirit: It doesn't take a great deal of perspicacity to notice that a slew of L.A. painters are working in the unholy gap between organic abstraction and decorator wallpaper. Mixing up the ornamental, the kitschy and the swoony, their work is not so much ironic as egalitarian.

The paintings in "Teeming," a group show at Post Gallery, are particularly open-handed, not to mention unpretentious, assured and infectious. **Marie Thibault** shows the most muscle, ripping up pictorial space with self-conscious abandon, which is the kind of non sequitur these painters thrive upon.

Robin Mitchell is more controlled, structuring her fields of spiraling color around neatly articulated, spine-like forms. **Merion Estes**, whose paintings are concurrently showing at Gallery LASCA, is theatrical but refined.

If Estes' aestheticism revamps Gustav Klimt's *fin de siècle* extravaganzas, **Linda Day** (whose work is also shown in a small solo exhibition upstairs) does a number on Monet's waterlilies. Whereas Monet pushed the real to the point of non-legibility, Day is hooked on the artificial from the word "go." Her swarming disks of blissfully synthetic color cluster around one another, and then, as suddenly, dart out of one another's way. Their movement apes not nature, but the relentless shifts, swipes and swivels of a machine, without being in the slightest way mechanistic.

■ *Post Gallery, 1804 E. 7th Place, (213) 488-3379, through Saturday.*