About Matt Rich and his work

Received an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, a BA from Brown University and attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. He has had solo exhibitions at Project Row Houses in Houston, devening projects + editions in Chicago, the Suburban in Oak Park, IL, Samsøn Projects in Boston, MA, VOLTA NY art fair and Halsey McKay in East Hampton, NY. His work has been reviewed by *Modern Painters,* *Artforum*and *Art Papers.*Matt Rich's paintings get rid of the canvas and its hired muscle, the stretcher bar. Built from individual fragments of painted paper, these paintings achieve carefully calibrated spatial and coloristic ambiguity. The ability to articulate ambiguity in a sustained, specific, systematic and satisfying way is a central goal of his work.

Most of his pieces he’s worked with paint, wood, paper and canvas. In the artworks he showed, he chooses paper as his material, but also functions as his medium when he explains his method of cutting and tearing the paper. He explains that the colors of the paper come from painting each sheet. While creating his project he states that he does not randomly slap down pieces of color but ponders over all his design choices. Yet his style in his work is very bold because he incorporates all the colors and does not stick to a specific color scheme. He creates “a library of color” which consist of hundreds of color sheets of paper he’s painted on. As he continues to discuss his process he mentions that even though his work appears ambiguous, he does restrict himself to limitations to guide him in his path, but also creates flexibility for changes in his work in case he wants to make adjustments. These individualized, colorful pieces of paper that harmonize together to make one piece demonstrates his goal of coloristic and spatial ambiguity in which the simplistic, design presents a modern contemporary work of art.

Notes were taken at a Lecture at Miami University Contemporary Art forum.

http://mattrich.com