

# The New York Times

ART REVIEW

## Still Independent, and Still Exceptional

Let your fall re-entry begin at the Independent Art Fair in Manhattan, which features painting, photography and the pioneers of net art.

By **Martha Schwendener**

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**Robert Barber at Kerry Schuss**



Robert Barber's "Untitled" (1963) from the Kerry Schuss Gallery. Jeenah Moon for The New York Times

Now that art fairs are appearing in late summer and fall, there are the inevitable “back to school” comparisons. [Robert Barber at Kerry Schuss](#) fits in perfectly with that mind-set. In addition to his '60s “Monsoon Paintings” — blocks of color

laid out around rough grids and inspired by the rainy season in Tucson, Ariz., where he lives — Barber created works on paper. Actually, he was a schoolteacher and used assignment paper printed with sections for filling in names and grades as his canvases. Simple, gestural patches of color, they echo Abstract Expressionism but these works also channel the student rebelling against the structure of assignments, or school itself.