

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Joan Hall: 'From Whence We Came'.

By David Bonetti

POST-DISPATCH VISUAL ARTS CRITIC

09/23/2007

LAYERS AND NETS

Joan Hall, who also teaches printmaking at Washington University, is showing work that is so many steps away from simple printmaking that it's a challenge to trace it back to its sources.



Her new work at Bruno David Gallery is all about layering and netting: layering, her process; netting, her image. Hall prints images of nets on sheets of Japanese paper she makes herself, applies the paper to sheets of Mylar and layers a couple of sheets, often cut into irregular shapes.

The completed works contain a density of information that belies their lightness. Blue, the color of water, the color of the sea, dominates here. In the best work, "Would You Swim the Ocean to Ease My Pain," the sweep of imagery and color is rhapsodic, reminiscent of color field painter Morris Louis' lyrical "Veils."