

Japanese artist's light touch displayed at Rena Bransten Projects

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Nobuyuki Takahashi's 2015 oil-on-canvas work "Autumn Sky" appears at Rena Bransten Projects.

Sunlight scattered like carelessly tossed jewels across water is just one simple scene of nature central to Japanese artist **Nobuyuki Takahashi**'s new body of work, now on exhibit in the U.S. for the first time at Rena Bransten Projects.

Like the Impressionists, the painter is obviously enthralled by light and seeks to capture its elusive qualities. Extraneous detail is jettisoned in favor of careful gradations of color in the sky in "Sunlight in February" and the shadowy profiles of sentinel-like growths in

“Pine Tree in Uji.”

This old world only seems to be flat, but Takahashi teases out a sense of depth and dimension. For instance, with the reflection of a roughly rendered tree line in “Autumn Sky,” the artist punctuates the scene with minimal flecks of fall color, giving it an almost offhand sense of enchantment.

— *Kimberly Chun*

Nobuyuki Takahashi: Everyday: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and by appointment. Through Jan. 9. Rena Bransten Projects, 1639 Market St., S.F. (415) 982-3292. www.renabranstengallery.com.

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