

ART REVIEWS

By DAVID PAGEL
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Captivating: You've heard of elevator music. But have you ever seen any elevator art?

A pair of long, vertical works by British Columbia-based artist **Robert Youds** gets quite a bit of mileage out of this seemingly silly idea. Installed above one another in the elevator shaft at Post Gallery, these playful stripe paintings replace the mind-numbing blandness for which elevator music is known with a jolt of raw energy.

Made of afghans that have been cut into thin strips and dipped in enamel paint, each piece consists of two 7-foot-long sections of fabric whose gnarled, irregular edges gently entwine. In one, a blue strip hangs next to a purple one; in the other, a bright yellow swathe casually wraps around an acid green one.

Part of the pleasure of Youds' art is because of its setting. The unrefined elevator shaft, fully visible from the unenclosed freight elevator, accentuates the scrappy, in-the-street feel of his fugitive paintings.

One advantage of exhibiting art in an elevator shaft is that you have a captive audience. The biggest disadvantage is that your pieces have less than a minute to do their work.

Youds' clever abstractions make the best of this setup. By providing a fleeting interlude to an everyday activity, these stripped-bare stripe paintings compel viewers to pay close attention as art passes by faster than usual.

■ *Post*, 1904 E. 7th Place, (213) 488-3379, through June 28. Closed Sundays-Tuesdays.