

**The Washington Post**

*Democracy Dies in Darkness*

# In the galleries: Objects of ruin build images of D.C. history

Artist uses construction debris that normally wouldn't merit a second look

Review by Mark Jenkins

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# Colin Taylor

Washington looks a bit Mediterranean in “3 Days in D.C.: A Postcard from the U.K.,” Colin Taylor’s show at Calloway Fine Art and Consulting. The painter’s sketchy, semiabstract landscapes feature large planes of tan and off-white, set off by blocks of azure sky. Maybe that’s how the city appears to Taylor, who lives in grayer Manchester, England.

This set of canvases began with a brief visit to Washington in fall 2021, immediately after flights from Britain were restored. Taylor made drawings and took photos of Georgetown, the Wharf and perhaps other neighborhoods — most scenes are too impressionistic for the locations to be pinpointed — and then returned to his studio. The collected images became pictures that reveal something of their origins: Loose charcoal lines underlie the soft colors, as if the original drawings had only partially transmuted into paintings.

Taylor’s geometric forms hint at universal archetypes, while the scrawled lines suggest motion. The figures in “Crowdscape: Wisconsin & M” could be ghosts, or simply people in a hurry. Or maybe it’s the painter who was in a rush, eager to capture an instant for all time.

***Colin Taylor: 3 Days in D.C.: A Postcard From the U.K. Through May 7 at Calloway Fine Art and Consulting, 1643 Wisconsin Ave. NW.***