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GALLERY GAL

"I think **Claudia Altman-Siegel** is one of the best young dealers here in S.F.," says Sabrina Buell, art adviser with Zlot Buell and Associates. The East Coast dealer moved west after an international art career with Luhring Augustine gallery in NYC, where she first started out as a security guard. "I wasn't very good," says Altman-Siegel. "I read a lot of books: *War and Peace*..." Promoted shortly after to director, she spent the next 10 years canvassing the art world. Since her arrival in S.F. in 2008, Altman-Siegel has opened her eponymous gallery to strong success. Her focus on emerging museum-caliber artists who "need someone to take them to the next level" has proven valuable to Berkeley-educated Trevor Paglen and mixed-media artist Liam Everett—both now in high demand. This month she highlights Tokyo artist Shinpei Kusanagi's dreamy abstractions. How does she pick her next big thing? "For me, it's almost a buzz that I get," she says. *March 6-April 19; altmansiegel.com.*



LEFT *Night Cruising*, 2009, by Shinpei Kusanagi.
BELOW Claudia Altman-Siegel.



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