Really, universally, relationships stop nowhere, and the exquisite problem of
the artist is eternally but to draw, by a geometry of his own, the circle within
which they shall happily appear to do so.

Henry James

Eve Aschheim: Recent Works presents paintings, drawings, and photograms by an artist
who plays in the most delicate fashion with spatial dimensions and relationships. Her
paintings feature gestural marks in shades of blue and gray which possess a subtle visual
weight as they move or linger within the white ground that comes to surround them. The
ellipses and series of dashes collectively form fields of energy, some quite calming and
others with rain-like motion or flickering patterns. There is a highly sophisticated
allusion to compositional structure evoked by discrete spatial links between the air-borne
marks and shapes.

In contrast to the pure abstraction of the paintings, Aschheim’s drawings on Mylar are
more referential in that they suggest architectural systems impossible to build. Again,
there is much variation within the artist’s inclination towards reduced elements and so
several of the works consist of such a density of lines and intersecting planes that the
space simultaneously expands and compresses. Another suite of drawings combines
scattered bits of clearly defined shapes with areas of smudges and erasures that create a
non-compositional diffusion.

Also on view is a series of photograms with which the artist has been recently
experimenting. The photograms were made by placing a select few of the Mylar
drawings directly onto sheets of photographic paper which were then exposed to light.
Being a semi-transparent material, the Mylar allowed enough light through to the
photosensitive paper which, when fixed, resulted in a reversal of the black, gray, and
white marks of the original drawing. The spaces that had been contained—in some
instances, practically incarcerated—by hard-edged layers of lines are here given their
form while the smudged “foggy” areas turn into black holes with hints of depth around
them.

Eve Aschheim is on view at the University Gallery from February 1 through March 14,
2003. The University Gallery, located on the lower level of the Fine Arts Center, is open
Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from to 2 to
5 p.m. The Gallery is also open during evening performances held in the Concert Hall of
the Fine Arts Center. For further information, please call (413) 545-3670 or visit the
Gallery’s website at www.umass.edu/fac/universitygallery.