RICHARD GRAY GALLERY

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ART IN REVIEW

ART IN REVIEW; Harold Gregor -- 'Farmland and Flatscapes'

By GRACE GLUECK Published: May 24, 2002

Katharina Rich Perlow Gallery 41 East 57th Street Manhattan

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If you have never heard of the "Heartland School of Painters," a look at the work of Harold Gregor, its founder, will clue you in. A native of the Midwest, Mr. Gregor paints his highly chromatic "flatscapes" -- the carpetlike farmlands of Illinois -- from an aerial perspective, making complex color patterns of fields, rivers, barns, silos, houses, fences, trees and other prairie paraphernalia.

"Illinois Flatscape No. 77" will serve as an example: seen in the bright light of morning or midday, a neat little farmstead is set amid plaid-looking planted fields, clumps of trees, rust-colored earth and bands of roads on the bank of a bright blue body of water. The colors look a little punched-up, giving the scape a theatricality it may not really possess, but put that down to painter's license.

Eye-catching as these paintings are, the problem is that repetition runs rampant -- partly, of course, because of the nature of the land. So in the end you can hardly tell one from another. GRACE GLUECK