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Art

By GRACE GLUECK

Sally Hazelet Drummond (Artists Space, 105 Hudson Street): Ever since she picked up on Pointillism, at the Museum of Modern Art's Seurat show in 1958, Sally Hazelet Drummond has rung minimal variations on a basic theme. She sprays on the canvas a monochrome ground, then starting from the center begins to stipple it with tiny dots of paint, in several colors. The dots, darkening imperceptibly in tone and value, move out toward the edges until they have filled the entire canvas. The result is a radiant field of muted color over which a glimmering central aureole seems to play. "Union Place," a smaller work of 1978, for instance, starts at the center with dots of pink, yellow, blue and palest gray, and darkens to an overall tone of beautiful steel gray-blue.

No better description of these obsessive works can be found than the artist's own: "like a humming, a drone, emanating from somewhere, a unified field, pulsing, energetic." Their Zen calm is extraordinarily restful, especially in light of the motorcycle roar given off by so much art today. Miss Drummond's show, which goes back to 1971, was organized by Linda Shearer, executive director of this not-for-profit gallery, and is supported by the Mark Rothko Foundation as part of a pilot series of three Artists Space exhibitions of work by "mature artists." Kudos to all concerned. (Through March 24.)