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DeJong's Copper Arcs Inspiring

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REVIEW: Constance DeJong uses curved and perforated copper to create small miracles in "Arc" at the Richard Levy Gallery.

Her 13-piece show of mirror-finish copper arcs and flat planes mounted in black or white shadow boxes is an elegant and inspiring collection of new work.

I'm not a great fan of minimalist sculpture but I love this show. DeJong uses impeccable craftsmanship to create little shrines within square boxes that produce dazzling bursts of light.

The black or white backgrounds act as stage settings for light shows created by the overhead gallery lighting. The number of lights used and their placement determine the shape and intensity of these glowing tributes to the magic of copper.

In ancient Egypt and many other cultures copper, because of its malleability and nonmagnetic qualities, was considered a magical metal. Copper was viewed as a good material for everything from cooking ware to certain types of jewelry. Copper bowls were used to mix medicinal cures and copper bracelets are still used by some people to alleviate arthritis pain.

In modern societies copper is used as an electrical conductor throughout the electronics industry.

DeJong's use of polished copper gives her work warmth and accessibility. The reddish glow in her black pieces re-creates the feeling of a fading sunset. In some works pierced copper plates manifest tiny internal galaxies.

The miniature scale of her central architectonic structures draws the viewer into an intimate relationship with each light generated vignette.

This is a beautiful show that is well worth a trip Downtown.