

Richard Adams' paintings at Oedipus Rex Gallery are more conventional and more impressive. The exhibition is called New Music because it shares its abstract nature with music and its colour can be spoken of in terms of harmony. Appropriately, there are some simply beautiful shades of blue in many of the paintings.

The emotional response to them is inevitably tinged with melancholy.

A typical work is Pointing to the Exit with a dark horizontal balanced on a heavy vertical element. Above this solid base a great glowing red is shot through with other colours, and with a series of expressive lines that give movement as they fade from left to right. At the top there is a deep space.

The quality of the painting is extremely subtle and the sense of moving from solid dark through emotion towards the light is very involving.

Equally impressive is another big painting called Take Good Care of My Heart. This, too, proceeds from a dark space through gradual shifts of tone towards light surmounted by a flood of blue. Once again, a sense of an inchoate mass of mixed emotional colour is delivered with precise geometrical lines of intellectual endeavour. The result is captivating.

In the second room of the gallery another dozen or more small paintings on paper are also consistently successful with the most impressive called Blue Note.