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As for the presently dominant mode of color painting itself, avatars were everywhere present this month. At Fischbach we saw Doug Ohlson, who has turned away from his former hard-edged excursions to present us with canvases on which rich, deeply smoked color backgrounds give rise to clusters of luminous “sunspots” of various pastel persuasions. At certain points (that is, the points at which these sunspots *are)* the orbs threaten, through sheer force of pink or green, to break away; others tend to be only faintly differentiated from their backgrounds, like airy ground swells. Whether they are bright pink or soft brown or violet, however, the tension between the independent status of these pastel orbs and their need for their deeply colored backgrounds is maintained throughout: each sunspot surfaces as an ideal variant of its more general colored element, the effect being similar to that of a sky-blue balloon seen against a storm sky.

Reproduction;

Doug Ohlson. *Grey,* 1970. Acrylic/canvas, 7 ½ x 20’. Fischbach Gallery.