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The Medium -- Paper -- Is the Message at Irvine

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Irvine Contemporary's exhibition of works on paper defines paper more loosely than most: The show includes photographs, collage and even a sculpture. Such inclusive criteria don't make for a cohesive theme, but some worthwhile efforts are on view. Of special note: three lithographs from Charbel Ackermann's "New Geometry" series, in which the artist imagines the Axis of Evil as a banal line on a world map captioned with Monty Pythonesque punch lines. In the gallery's rear room: paintings of the conventional kind by Lori Esposito, with influences both botanical and fantastical.

"Over Under Sideways Down, Backwards Forwards Square and Round" and *"Lori Esposito: She Had to Go"* at Irvine Contemporary, 1412 14th St. NW, Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-6 p.m., 202-332-8767, to Nov. 25. <http://www.irvinecontemporary.com>.

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Charbel Ackermann casts a satirical eye on world affairs with his "New Geometry" lithographs. (Irvine Contemporary)

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