



Eileen Neff's "Here and There," 2012, C-print mounted on Plexiglas at Bridgette Mayer Gallery through Saturday.

By Edith Newhall, For The Inquirer

POSTED: October 21, 2012

Window dressing

Sometimes a new home can make a real difference.

Certainly it has for Eileen Neff's color photographs, which look uncannily like views through windows and doors as displayed on Bridgette Mayer Gallery's walls, an effect I never noticed in any of Neff's shows at Locks Gallery. Partly it's the house-like dimensions and proportions of Mayer's gallery, the redesigned parlor floor of a late-18th-century house, which makes one believe that additional windows and rooms could exist there. But it strikes me now that Neff's work was always too uncontained by Locks' wide-open, high-ceilinged spaces. Here, you are drawn into her images of rooms, sultry sunset skies, cloud formations, landscapes, and spaces with objects. They control the space in ways they were not able to before.

As it is mounted on the back wall of the back gallery, Neff's largest photograph, *Here and There* (2012), which shows a straight-on view of a room with various objects in it, could easily pass for an actual room beyond the gallery. *Good Night Rain* (2012), of a sunset as seen through a rain-spattered window, offers a similar illusion.

Neff's clever *Postcloud* (2012), a postcard rack filled with multiple ink-jet prints on cards that make up one large image of a cloud, offers its own poetic stand-alone illusion within the gallery.

Bridgette Mayer Gallery, 709 Walnut St., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. 215-413-8893 or www.bridgettemayergallery.com. Through Saturday.