

## **Artist Profile of Marshall Crossman by Erica Rheinschild**

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Just a few miles away at W Chicago Lakeshore is Marshall Crossman's abstract expressionist painting, Class Photo Series #70. A derivative of high school yearbook portraits, the loosely painted work explores the relationship of the individual to the group. Crossman, who has exhibited in the Bay Area since the 1980s, began the series after attending her husband's high school reunion. "I was intrigued by the exaggerated poses, stylized hairdos and cookie-cutter images of his 1963 yearbook," she says.

This, the 70th painting in the series, is an emotional rather than photographic portrait. The painting's blurred faces suggest conformity, while the grid creates a constant tension between the individual and the group. Crossed-out heads have a more ambiguous meaning - some represent ex-boyfriends or girlfriends, others symbolize death. The 72-by 60-inch painting is oil and oil stick on canvas.