

# Chicago Tribune

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## Review

Alan Artner  
Tribune Art Critic

ARTHUR LERNER (Cicero, 221 W. Erie St.): Lerner's new landscape paintings have new settings, in the American Southwest rather than his more familiar Maine. Otherwise, they are like the work he has shown with some frequency, except perhaps in the degree of their abstraction, which is ever-so-slightly greater than before.

All the pieces have Lerner's characteristic illumination: so bright, intense and steady that landscape motifs, both solid and aqueous, look bleached out. The effect is to give a feeling of extreme dry heat, as if in a desert where one's eye plays tricks with color and opaque shadows fall across surfaces heavily.

This same light is in Lerner's still lifes, which present arrangements of driftwood, vegetables and shells that cascade down the canvas, shadows linking object with object as if by a sinewy integument. The two pieces on view have a deceptive simplicity.

The exhibition also includes a few works on paper, mainly preliminary studies that are as loose and soft as the finished paintings are tight and hard. (Through May.)