

JANET STANLEY: PURE

POTENTIAL

Until Sunday, *New* Gallery, 906

Queen St. W.

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The Globe and Mail, Saturday, August 21, 2010

between melted candy, seafoam-coloured taffeta, and a three-legged blender.

Energized by tidal upswings of curling, cresting pigment, her new series, Pure Potential, revels in crashing loopy peaks of boreal, vegetable greens against restful patches of papaya-flesh oranges and carnation pinks.

Concavities and small bowl shapes sometimes halt the commotion, side pools in a rapids, but then the whole mad dash of colour and gravity-defying brushwork starts up again, threatening to hurtle off the canvas.

In a related series, Stanley pairs calming expanses of thinned paint with vigorous calligraphic turns, sudden skids that clot and crust at the turning points. The overall effect is one of relaxed aggression, a Zen garden attacked by wolverines.

I suspect Stanley wears out brushes faster than a car wash.

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-R.M. Vaughan, August 21, 2010