
ELIZABETH BABYN AT LOOP

\$950-\$4,300. *Until June 17,
1174 Queen St. W., Toronto;
416-516-2581*

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Toronto-based painter Elizabeth Babyn calls her exhibition of vigorously painted acrylics *Hopscotch* and *Bubblegum* – which, I guess, lends it a kind of seasonal appropriateness. The paintings teem with carefully rendered passages of candy, bubblegum and jellybeans – the effect of this aggregate of childhood sugars apparently leading the artist to what Babyn’s gallery statement refers to as her “attempt to explore her paintings as though she is looking through the eyes of a child...”, thereby bringing her closer, apparently, “to that inner joy of knowing that anything and everything is possible.”

I guess. What I liked about the paintings, however (jelly beans notwithstanding), were the great, heavy, distinctly in-childlike sweeps of pigment that rush darkly through the pictures – tidal waves of energy which, oddly, seem bent on carrying everything else along with them through the paintings. Including her scatterings of kiddie confections.

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