

The Art and Soul of Color

works by Suzanne Wallace Mears and Stephanie Paige explore color and its relationship to energy and emotion

by Emily Van Cleve

A NEW SHOW AT PIPPIN CONTEMPORARY called *The Art and Soul of Color*—which is part of a citywide *Summer of Color* initiative at major museums and galleries—pairs the works of glass artist Suzanne Wallace Mears with those of mixed-media painter Stephanie Paige and focuses on the different ways that color can be used to express emotion and energy.

“[Color is] what makes the magic happen and unleashes my imagination,” says Suzanne Wallace Mears. “Color is my way of communicating emotion, a state of mind past, present, and future.”

In Paige’s pieces, which are from her *Zen Garden* series, blues, greens, and grays evoke a sense of peace and calm, while oranges and reds depict positive and upbeat expressions. Her abstract landscapes, featuring rich color around stark horizon lines, reflect Paige’s connection to Mother Earth.

“Nature is Stephanie’s main inspiration, and this spring her [*Zen Garden*] paintings are forging an even closer relationship



Suzanne Wallace Mears, *Seaside*, kiln-formed glass, 22 x 12"

to the natural world,” says Kelly Skeen, director of arts marketing for Pippin Contemporary. “These paintings focus on the peaceful, meditative balance of nature and the harmony of the universe.”

A dozen vertical glass pieces from Mears’s *Feather on the Loose* collection are totem-like forms mounted in a steel base. They’re meant to communicate happiness, whimsy, and the artist’s optimistic view of life.



Stephanie Paige, *Spring Winds*, mixed media, 36 x 48"

“I’m a colorist,” Mears says. “It’s what makes the magic happen and triggers and unleashes my imagination. Color is my way of communicating emotion, a state of mind past, present, and future. I favor a bright primary color palette but do have two favorites: blue and orange.”

Mears stocks her glass studio with every possible color choice in basic glass, so she has the freedom to use whatever matches her inspiration in the moment. “Color is so much fun for me and so stimulating that if I don’t try to limit myself to a given palette, I try to use everything,” she says. ■

Suzanne Wallace Mears and Stephanie Paige:
The Art and Soul of Color,
June 17–July 1, reception June 19, 5–7 PM,
Pippin Contemporary, 200 Canyon,
pippincontemporary.com



Stephanie Paige, *Eden's Love*, mixed media, 30 x 60"