



A GROUP OF FIVE

GORGEOUS ORIGINAL ABSTRACTS THAT WON'T BREAK THE BANK

"I don't know much about art," the cliché goes, "but I know what I like." These words were first spoken at around the same time that art began to challenge our notions of what the word "picture" means. Here are five painters whose abstract pictures make no apologies for being what they are – solid, thoughtful, and beautiful works that eschew any style-du-jour that might happen upon the art scene.

BY MELANIE SCOTT



JOHN BARKLEY

Mean paintings for a mean world. One can't help thinking this when looking at John Barkley's work. No wimp is Barkley. His pieces are heavy

with pigment, loaded with texture, rife with colour. They vibrate with personality. If they could speak, they would holler. Barkley appears to be referring to the founding fathers of abstraction—those tall, strapping lads who turned New York on its ear in the 1940s. This is the kind of work that can be explored over time and does different things to the viewer with every glance. There's so much going on that the layers of paint tell a different story each new day.

THE STATS: Born and raised in Ottawa, lives in Aylmer. Studied in Ottawa. Has shown in Ottawa, Toronto, Gatineau, and Montreal.

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