

My first review by Cate McQuaid from 1996 in the "Boston Globe", Thursday July 25, 1996 along with reviews of Michael Mazur and Karen Finley

"P-Town is awash in art, witty, wicked and wondrous"

Martin Mugar's large-scale paintings at the Rising Tide Gallery trace the evolution of an image in this artist's work over the past few years. His earlier works are earth-bound, covered in flat planes in sweet tones tumbling into one another. You can glimpse something roiling between the benign flatness-hints of movement, of fiery colors and biomorphic shapes.

Paintings from the middle period of this five-year retrospective have the same planes teetering on bright red triangles, barely keeping their balance. In the past year, Mugar has let loose. The planes shatter, giving way to explosions of imperfect rings, a havoc of colors dancing over a fluid wash of peachy tones. You know these circles have been itching to get out from under those planes for years, and they completely change the tone of Mugar's work from one of careful control to riotous celebrations.