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“What are you doing right now?” STATUS UPDATES MAKE THE CASE FOR ART SERIES



Molly E. is hot for Robert Frost, 16" x 20,"
2009. Oil on canvas.

Milwaukee, WI; March 23, 2009: Milwaukee-based artist Stacey Williams-Ng will be presenting a solo show of her new painting series “What are you doing right now” at the Underwood Gallery in Wauwatosa as the featured artist for the 2009 Westside Artwalk, April 24-25, 2009.

Williams-Ng's newest paintings are a response to the popularity and significance of social media, and in particular, to the status updates. Status updates are a mainstay of social applications like Twitter and Facebook. Users are invited to regularly publish their answers to the question “What are you doing right now?”

Responses (or status updates), which are confined to a character limit, then show up on the pages of the member's friends. The result is a sort of collaborative poem, in which everyone's posts are visible, and equal to one another in emphasis.

In these heavily textured oil paintings, figures are seen performing mundane tasks, such as cooking pancakes or reading (“**Molly E.** is hot for Robert Frost,” pictured at left) while other more quixotic pieces contain no explicit narrative other than the status update that inspired it, such as the peculiar “**Rafiq A.** Spring...the end of my winter of discontent or just the next pithy chapter?”

The show will open on April 24, 2009, and runs through June.

Stacey Williams-Ng, originally from Memphis, TN, has been in Milwaukee for 5 years and is a former MIAD instructor. She is the recipient of several painting awards and was recently featured in EMERGE magazine. She is also a freelance art critic for local and national press.

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