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Paloranta - Home Design in Toronto

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Paloranta Art and Furnishing Inc., located at the quieter end of Queen Street West, specializes in Scandanavian art, design, and products for home.

The store is long and un-crowded; paintings line one wall, and carefully-arranged shelves line the other.

Best of all, there's Finnish coffee brewing in one corner.

Artist Teemu Paloranta is just 23 years old, but way more accomplished than most people twice his age. Teemu exhibits exclusively in Canada at Paloranta, a subsidiary of a Finnish company of the same name where he exhibits as well. This is the fourth store he has been involved with; the first was an interior design store he opened when he was just 19. He quickly realized that "people were looking for something else" – and started selling his paintings in the store as well.



Teemu wasn't formally trained in painting, preferring to figure things out on his own. He did, however, attend college for graphic design and photography. "From there I come to my way to use colour and light," he says. His paintings are large, abstract, the paint almost dripping off them, textured on the canvas.

Asked about process and inspiration, Teemu says, "It's very – I don't know what actually happens. It's very impulsive. I paint when I need to paint, or I'm [in my studio] and I see my painting, I just go and paint. I don't need to go and sit down and concentrate." The immediacy of this process is reflective in the paintings, with big emotions splattered across canvases throughout the store.



Besides Teemu's paintings, the store sells high-quality, functional, sleek products; there are some knives in shapes I've never seen, that sit comfortably in the palm of the hand. I covet the 'smiley' bowl by Eva Solo, which is like a bowl with a fully attached lid (the top of which has a dip), with a 'mouth' where you can slip nuts or candies. Carafs and coffee-makers come covered in colourful neoprene. There's not a lot in the store, but what there is very carefully chosen.

Paloranta, 833 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON
647-345-8289

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