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Real Canadians decorating



Shops: Paloranta Art & Furnishing

Thursday, March 19, 2009 by Chris

Shops

833 Queen Street West, Toronto
647.345.8289, Mon - Fri 11 am - 7 pm, Sat - Sun 11 am - 5:30 pm



Equal parts art gallery and Scandinavian specialty shop, **Paloranta** is a newcomer to Queen Street West having opened late last year. Products from **Marimekko**, **Secto** and **Eva Solo** stock the shelves while the walls are dressed with work by abstract painter Teemu Paloranta, a young Finnish artist who followed his heart to Toronto after marrying a Canadian girl.

The Eva Solo Leaf Bowl, above left, is made from highly polished stainless steel (\$195) and the dual-compartment Smiley Bowls—perfect for pistachios, nuts on top, shells on the bottom—are \$109. Bright and fun Marimekko duvet covers are \$175 (queen).



My favorite things in the shop are the superb Secto pendant lamps . . .



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Seen at night from outside and during the day from inside, the Secto pendants are handmade in Finnish Birch (small \$590, large \$890). They're architectural and interesting and oh so Scandinavian.

Paloranta, the shop, reflects the design aesthetic it peddles—sparse and uncomplicated. Paloranta, the artist, creates abstract, acrylic works that are by turns vivid and moody. Ranging in price from \$300 - \$1,500, Teemu will also tailor a canvas to a client's space, at least in terms of colour considerations and size.



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