

# OUT & ABOUT IN BOSTON

WITH SUZANNE SCHULTZ

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## Artist Beth Barry Embraces Interior Design at the M2L Showroom

By Celina Colby

Expressionist artist Beth Barry's latest work is on view at the M2L furniture showroom in Boston.

M2L frequently works with local artists to show their work in conjunction with the store's array of contemporary-chic furnishings. Barry's dreamy, abstract paintings are the perfect match.

The M2L team hand selected paintings that embodied the artist's sensibilities and would appeal to their customers. Barry is partial to an orange and grey painting. "I really like the massiveness of the shapes and the way they flow into each other. The limited palette is also something that I'm drawn to. I'm trying to do that in a lot of my work," she says.

The painting features a steel grey background with orange and cream uneven rectangles striping across it. The orange flows organically through the cream shapes like water filtering through rocks. In typical Barry style, the piece is textural as much as it is visceral.

Chunky strokes of paint interrupt the clean lines and colors, injecting the serenity of the work with a jolt of excitement. The painting is large enough to act as a statement piece in a neutral living space but small enough to be accommodated by most apartments. M2L styled it above a black credenza for maximum impact.

The opening reception held on February 26, coincided with the Transcultural Exchange Conference, a three-day event of workshops, talks, and exhibitions by artists from all over the world. Barry was attending the conference with a professional artist group from New York City, the New York Artist Circle. Due to this influx of art enthusiasts in the city, the opening was well attended.

With another show behind her, Barry is working on a new series of plein air pieces, one of her specialties. Much like Monet's Rouen Cathedral paintings, she's been sitting in the same spot in Central Park and painting it during different weather conditions and times of day.

"I am very interested in the changes in the landscape throughout the seasons," she says. In the studio she's constructing a series of abstract paintings in response to her experience at the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain.

Barry's work can be viewed at M2L, 543 Albany Street, Boston, through March 31.



Jacqueline Sferra, Shira Toren, Beth Barry, Emily Steadman at Spring Preview at M2L