

NOVEMBER 2015

Controlled Flow

“Edge of Miscibility,” a show of California painter Jennifer Wolf’s most recent work, opens at the Santa Monica-based William Turner Gallery on November 21 and runs through January 16. Wolf, who grew up hiking in the Santa Ynez and Santa Monica Mountains, explores an intimate connection with nature on canvas. The artist mixes minerals she collects from France, Peru, Santa Barbara, and Santa Monica with acrylic, fusing old world discoveries with up-to-date techniques. Wolf grinds each mineral into pigment by hand using a mortar and pestle. Her present



series focuses specifically on two colors—cochineal, a scarlet or crimson dye derived from the cochineal insect, which dwells and feeds on cacti in South America, Mexico, and Arizona, and indigo, a deep blue which is derived from the *indigofera tinctoria* planted cultivated all over the world.

Using a controlled flow technique, Wolf creates fluid abstractions with thin layers of pigment. The resulting canvases are almost like Rorschach tests—landscapes, underwater worlds, and magnified images of organic matter seem to appear, disappear, and collapse onto each other, leaving themselves open to viewer interpretation.