

Witty works are vandalized in advance



Jacqueline Humphries, "Untitled (yellow)," 2023. Color soap ground, spit bite and sugar lift aquatints. Photo: Crown Point Press

Crown Point Press' new show of prints by Jacqueline Humphries is filled with humor. Her 2016 series mixing modern emoji with the signature slashing gestures of abstract expressionism is the unexpected mashup you didn't know you wanted to see. Something about banal tech optimism against 1950s radical cool just feels right, no matter how wrong it sounds.

The New York artist's seven new color etchings created during her second Crown Point project in October 2023 employ dot matrix backgrounds in jubilant colors — but, each work appears to be splattered, as though attacked by

"activists" who pelt great artworks in museum with food, claiming they're doing it to raise attention about climate change.

"I was fascinated by the public actions of the Just Stop Oil activists, who protested climate change policy by throwing and spraying these paint pours and splatters that resembled the gestures of paintings I made earlier in my career," said Humphries. "I thought if I pre-vandalize my paintings, maybe this would protect them from future vandals."

— Tony Bravo