

## **SPROAT'S FLIGHTS OF FANCY: [THIRD Edition]**

[Temin, Christine](#). [Boston Globe](#) [Boston, Mass] 06 Dec 1984: 77.

The most immediately striking thing about [Catherine Bertulli](#)'s large-scale watercolors at the Barbara Krakow Gallery, 10 Newbury st., through Jan. 10, is their sheer happiness. The colors are hot, clear and zingy: Occasionally they suggest the deliberate excesses of Hawaiian print shirts. Each of the paintings is dominated by an oversized still-life object - a chair, vase, teapot, or Versailles statue of an Amazon with bow and arrow - which refuses to stay still. These main objects are all positioned at topsy-turvy angles; cheerfully ignoring the laws of gravity, they seem in the midst of slipping off their bases or tables. The hefty Amazon is improbably poised on a skinny foot which in turn stands on a tiny, tilted base. A vase looks as if its doily is being pulled out from underneath. A marvelous chair with claw feet and dragon's heads on the arms seems ready to pounce at us. The backgrounds, which crowd the objects forward, are crazy quilts of patterns colliding with one another, reminiscent of both Matisse and Japanese ukiyo-e prints.