



Freeze frame An aura of quiet hangs over each of Jennifer Walton's photorealistic swimmer paintings — portentous, like the hush that falls over a crowd watching an Olympic event. In this case, we are suspended mid-dive beside a series of naked men, who, skinny and sleek as dolphins, launch themselves toward pools of dark, choppy water. As viewers, we are caught in the moment before the main action, when time stands still and effects and endings have yet to reveal themselves. Cropped from context, Walton's divers — toes pointed, bodies half twisted — represent what happens when the fast act of diving is rendered in the slowest medium conceivable: oil painting. Microseconds become eternity. Bodies are forever airborne, hanging in the air like unanswered questions. — *Kyo Maclear*

Jennifer Walton's series *Surface Tension* continues at the Edward Day Gallery, 33 Hazelton Ave., until March 14. Call 921-6540 for more information.