

SHANE  
CAMPBELL  
GALLERY

The New Yorker  
September 2002

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**GALLERIES—CHELSEA**

**ANN CRAVEN**

Large-scale paintings of birds—yellow canaries so pumped up they could be busted for steroids, love-birds with feathers the color of cotton candy—that owe less to Audubon than they do to a rack of kitschy postcards. In each canvas the fauna (the main gallery's aviary is preceded by several deer) is lavishly painted in sharp focus, while the floral background (which might have been swiped from a wallpaper sample) is blurred. This tension between nature and artifice suggests that Craven is staking some conceptual claim. But ultimately the show's pleasure lies in its unabashed decorative oomph. Through Oct. 5. (Gasser & Grunert, 524 W. 19th St. 807-9494.)

2021 S WABASH AVE  
CHICAGO IL 60616  
+1 (312) 226 2223