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## ART

By Betty Ann Jordan

**FREE City of Fictions.** Day-to-day survival in teeming Mexico City requires ingenuity. And the lines between right and wrong, truth and fiction can quickly blur in the scramble to get things done, as Toronto artist and guest curator Gwen MacGregor discovered while visiting on a two-month residency. She's brought together photographs, videos and installation works by six young Mexico City artists that convey the ad hoc, improvisatory nature of life in that great metropolis. A case in point: conceptual and installation artist Gustavo Artigas (included in this year's Venice Biennale) can't make the Toronto opening. His solution? Hiring four body doubles to impersonate him, right down to having the quartet waving in unison when "Artigas" is introduced. May 10 to June 16. *Mercer Union Gallery, 37 Lisgar St., 416-536-1519, www.interlog.com/~merc.*

**FREE Eternal Commentary.** Robin Collyer's suburban landscapes, with all the signage digitally scrubbed clean of text, offer a tantalizing taste of what it would be like if we were suddenly spared the deluge of advertising. However, if somebody (in this case, essayist Shirley Madill) didn't point out the ad-buster agenda underlying Collyer's photos, you might read them as straightforward visual documents and miss their subtle critique. This exhibit is a by-the-book examination of the common-law relationship between pictures and text. *Eternal Commentary* encompasses the work of nine artists, with photos of wax museum effigies of famous murderers taken by Hiroshi Sugimoto, ship-breaking photos shot in Bangladesh by Edward Burtynsky, and local forensic crime photography. Additional commentary is provided by writers Rosemary Donegan and Terence Dick. May 17 to June 23. *Gallery TPW (Toronto Photographers Workshop), 80 Spadina Ave., Ste. 310, 416-504-4242.*

**FREE Holly King.** As the Montreal artist envisions it, the ocean is eerily calm at the end of the world, mysterious currents rippling out from a tiny island. Elsewhere, the sky darkens; a lightning bolt sunders roiling clouds. Holly King's shivery photo-tableaux created from such low-rent materials as cellophane, cardboard cut-outs, acrylics and Plasticine are sublime landscapes writ small, simulated way stations on a soul journey. While her vistas are ersatz, her goal is nothing less than the re-enchantment of photography. *Landscapes of the Imagination* is a touring career retrospective of 16 works. May 31 to July 15. *Art Gallery of Mississauga, 300 City Centre Dr., 905-896-5088, www.city.mississauga.on.ca/agm.* Also see King's new works until May 26 at the *Leo Kamen Gallery, 80 Spadina Ave., 416-504-9515.*

**An Inuit Perspective.** It has not been the custom of Inuit artists to keep photographic records of pieces they've sold. Thinking to reacquaint Baker Lake artists with important early works, collector Sam Sarick hit upon the idea of sending a show of vintage carvings (from the group he donated to the Art Gallery of Ontario) back north for a reunion. Curator and art historian Marie Bouchard upped the ante by suggesting that the artists or their families choose the works they wished to see again, based on slides and group discussion. Aesthetics are inextricably linked to place and memory in this show of powerful carvings in the stark Baker Lake vernacular. Talent being a given, selections are illuminated by wall texts, revealing that some of the works were chosen for their faithfulness in representing the traditional way of life or for their mastery of the dark, super-