

"Please Lie to Me"

by Michael Rattray



November 2011 marked the 15-year anniversary of Galerie Art Mûr in Montreal. To celebrate, owners Rhéal Lanthier and François St-Jacques devoted the entirety of their gallery space—two levels of approximately 14,000 square feet—to exhibit the work of 21 artists drawn from an impressive international stable. The exhibition, "Please Lie to Me," offers much commentary on the current state of contemporary art. Lanthier, in his curatorial statement, poses the question: "*Est-ce que détourner son regard de la vérité est un mensonge? (Does averting your eyes from the truth constitute an illusion, a lie?)*" In response, many of the works interrogate symptoms of our technologically dependent society. Several zero in on the inequality of the global market, the symbiotic relationship between the developed and developing geographic spaces of global capital, while others address the quotidian moment, one that is commodified, generalized to an accessible ubiquity that absolves the need for action in favour of awareness. If there is a common theme to the exhibition beyond Lanthier's open call to reflect upon those truths of our society perhaps too difficult to bear, it is one that asks the viewer to participate, comment and reveal.

1. Susan Botic, *I Can't Believe I Found My Match*, 2005, C-print, 76 x 182 cm. Edition of 18. Images courtesy the artists and Art Mûr, Montreal.

2. Clinton Fain, *Snapshot Heard 'Round the World*, 2007, Type C chromogenic print, 80 x 45".

3. Evergon, *Margaret Standing (Front)*, 2001, *Margaret Standing (Back)*, 2001, selenium-toned black-and-white prints from Polaroid negative, 229 x 122 cm each. Photograph: Michael Patton.

4. Nadia Myre, *Indian Act* (page 13/56), 2000–2003, seed beads, stained cloth, thread, *Indian Act*, 46 x 38.5 cm.