

EXTREME PAINTING

June 17 - September 25, 2010

Painting Under Siege

Opening :

Guest curator: Nicolas Mavrikakis

Thursday June 17, 2010, 4 - 8pm

Mathieu Beauséjour | Simon Bilodeau | Sarah Bertrand-Hamel | Amélie Guérin | Victor Hacala | Benjamin Klein
Céline B. La Terreur | Mathieu Lefevre | Savannah Lou | Adrian Norvid | Brittany Pratt | Alana Riley



Mathieu Lefevre, *R.I.P Édouard Manet*, 2010

Painting Under Siege

Nicolas Mavrikakis

This is not, strictly speaking, a painting exhibition. As a guest curator, I rather meant to show how painting's representation, image and mythology make artists dream and think. There is in fact only one painter here, one that's haunted by the idea of painting, not to mention the medium's inherent materiality. Under the banner of this sprawling exhibition titled *Extreme Painting* and organized by sixteen Montreal galleries, I wanted to bring together unusual approaches to pigment and pictoriality. Hence one will find here: scans and a video of tattoos stealing famous imagery by Malevich and Matisse among others, humorous videos that appropriate abstract art (as in Barnett Newman's painting) in a feminist way, installations dealing with painting's magical and quite fantastical powers, collages made with fake nails that bring to mind works by Mondrian and Buren, drawings that depict painting as an invasive activity bordering on the oppressive...

Nicolas Mavrikakis is an art critic. He has dealt severely with artists in the newspaper *Voir Montréal* since 1998. He has also written exhibition reviews and texts for numerous Canadian magazines, and has been a member of the editorial committees of ETC and Spirale. As well, he curates exhibitions, among others, the *25e Symposium d'art contemporain de Baie-Saint-Paul* in 2007, and, in 2005, the exhibition *How to Become an Artist*. In addition, he teaches art history and French literature, but has also taught the history of film, dance, the arts and communications. His favorite pastime is to assassinate artists' egos.