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visual arts

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Visual Arts Front Listings Artists Venues

(this week)

Guys in Caves

(archives)

September 16th, 2010
Guys in Caves

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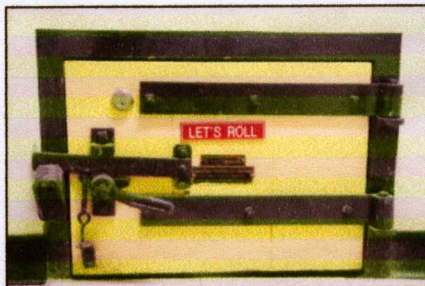
Bunker buster

Adam Volk

Artist Edwin Janzen illuminates the dark depths of the Cold War with Guys in Caves

Buried deep underground, within a sprawling tomb of concrete and steel strong enough to withstand a full-blown nuclear assault, the infamous Diefenbunker seems like an unlikely location for an art exhibit. Yet for artist Edwin Janzen, the relic of Cold War paranoia is the perfect place to explore the themes of fear, repression and conflict which continue to affect our modern world.

Janzen's intriguing works are on display now in the former fallout shelter-turned-museum in a new exhibit entitled *Guys in Caves*, a four-part series which mixes text, video, audio and even fabricated smells into a cohesive whole.



Art, history and the "war on terror" collide in Janzen's work

"In a way, the place came before the idea," says Janzen when asked how the project began. "The space has a really rich vocabulary that you have to be sensitive to. You can't just make a bunch of paintings and put them there."

Perhaps fittingly, Janzen's unique and timely works are scattered throughout the museum, requiring a keen eye on the part of the viewer. Dozens of Janzen's official-looking signs, for example, are located in strategic locations throughout the first level and are emblazoned with words such as "Osama," "Green Zone" and "Mission Accomplished." Lower levels of the bunker also feature appropriated video footage from sources such as Yogi Bear and James Bond, all of which cleverly explore concepts such as government surveillance and mass hysteria.

Janzen, however, says his unusual works are really about examining the parallels between the Cold

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September 9th, 2010

Marie-Josée Laframboise's
Network Installations

September 2nd, 2010

Fall Cultural Preview: Visual
arts

August 26th, 2010

Sculptor Ione Thorkelsson

August 19th, 2010

Montreal underground art
at La Petite Mort Gallery

August 12th, 2010

Bodies in Trouble

August 5th, 2010

Louis Helbig's Beautiful
Destruction

July 22nd, 2010

Anna Frlan's Kitchen
Anatomy

July 15th, 2010

Angelina McCormick's
Secret Garden

July 8th, 2010

Peter Trepanier's Swarm

July 1st, 2010

Cindy Baker's All Things to
All Men (and Women)