

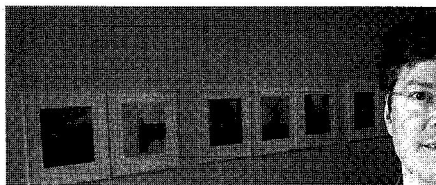


## POSTED TORONTO

*A selection of postings to our Toronto blog,  
PostedToronto.com, and more*

### **BLOGTO.COM'S BEST OF TORONTO: CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERIES**

Toronto sports a wildly creative, at times bombastic and risqué, gritty, gorgeous, and cerebral contemporary art gallery scene. And unlike the pretentious art galleries of New York City or London, the staff and owners of Toronto's best galleries are friendly and welcoming, always happy to explain the sometimes mysterious but always thought-provoking pieces on display. Here are some of them:



PETER J. THOMPSON / NATIONAL POST

Stephen Bulger's gallery is dedicated to photography.

- 1. Stephen Bulger Gallery:** Galleries simply cannot be higher quality than Stephen Bulger Gallery, in Toronto or anywhere. Always welcoming, professional, educational and relevant, this Queen West gallery is dedicated to photography. Presenting images by the finest photographers in the world from the earliest days of the medium through to current practice, this gallery is an essential stop on any art tour. For photographers, it is Mecca.
- 2. Le Gallery:** Hands down the freshest gallery in Toronto, young owner/director Wil Kucey consistently looks under wet rocks for visionary, ultra modern artists no one has ever heard of. Many of them are still in art school. Kucey, who graduated from OCAD himself not so long ago, has the best eye for the new.
- 3. Cling Roenisch Gallery:** More curator than gallerist, some people in the scene wonder why owner Clint Roenisch, possibly the finest curator in the city, runs a commercial gallery when he should be the curator of contemporary art at the AGO. Insightful, knowledgeable and challenging, the exhibitions at this essential Toronto gallery take no prisoners.
- 4. Artcore/Fabrice Marcolini:** Not only does this Distillery District gallery have the most international program of any of the city's contemporary galleries, but it also has one of the biggest and best spaces to show art. You may never have heard of the artists showing here, but the rest of the world certainly has. If you are looking for "blue chip" contemporary art from around the globe, speak to gregarious and knowledgeable Fabrice.
- 5. Monte Clark Gallery:** The commercial home base of the internationally admired "Vancouver School" of conceptual photography, not only does this gallery consistently present art of the highest quality, often by Canada's finest artists, but it is housed in one of Toronto's most gorgeous display spaces, down in the Distillery District. If you are lucky, Douglas Coupland might just be hanging out when you stop by.
- 6. Interaccess Electronic Media Arts Centre:** As Canadian-Mexican digital media artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer says, "the only thing new about New Media art is that it is not new anymore." Toronto needs more galleries like this Ossington Street staple, dedicated to ballsy, adventurous, techno-geek art that exists at the gummy intersection where technology and creativity collide.
- 7. Angell Gallery:** With exhibitions that are always daring and original, this gallery was one of the pioneers in the West Queen West art district. You'll rarely see a safe, conservative show here. Owner Jamie Angell is easily the friendliest, most enthusiastic dealer in the city.
- 8. Christopher Cutts Gallery:** If you like a spoonful of mean, gruesome, beautiful decadence mixed into your art, Christopher "Cutter" Cutts is your tour guide. The art in his gallery usually has a dark and mischievous side. Though a bit out of the way near the intersection of Dundas and Bloor, it's always worth the visit.
- 9. Diaz Contemporary:** You could drop this gallery unmolested into any of the great contemporary art centres of the world and you wouldn't have to change a thing. Owner Benjamin Diaz had an illustrious and influential career in Mexico City's art scene before opening this important gallery in Toronto which usually exhibits works by Canadian and Mexican artists.
- 10. Katharine Mulherin Contemporary Art Projects:** Now in its tenth year, this gallery is spread across various store fronts on Queen Street West. Edgy, relevant, and; at times, cutesy, this gallery is one of the most respected and established spaces showing "emerging" and "mid-level" artists in the city.

— Randy Gladman, blogto.com