

VA2007 - Art — Star Trek



Vancouver has proven to be a petri dish for some of the most exciting contemporary work in the art world. Here, six artists that should be on your radar.

By Michael Harris

Gallery hopping in Vancouver is a fullcontact sport. The contemporary art scene is bolstered by some of the world's heavyweights — Jeff Wall, Ian Wallace, Rodney Graham — but local galleries consistently offer high-level work from more affordable artists, too. Begin your tour by strolling South Granville, where a dozen healthy galleries are tightly strung together — there's a Starbucks on every block for support. Below are some hot names to get you started.



Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun, *New Chiefs*, courtesy Buschlen Mowatt gallery

Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun artfully mashes pop culture with his First Nations heritage.

Along with art star Brian Jungen (famous for wrestling Air Jordans into ceremonial masks), Yuxweluptun has made a name for himself by artfully mashing pop culture with his First Nations heritage. Coast Salish design elements receive radical updating when corporate suits and hip colouring invade the visual vocabulary of a culture often assumed to be outside of the contemporary world. Unless you're shopping with a museum's budget, stick to his works on paper and eschew the larger canvasses. *Price Tags: \$4,000 to \$80,000.*

At [Buschlen Mowatt](#)
1445 W. Georgia St., Vancouver, BC, 604-682-1234



Scot McFarland, *Admiral's House*, courtesy Clark Gallery

Scott McFarland's astounding garden series.

Vancouver's famed photo-conceptual school hits a new peak with the technically astounding garden pictures of young McFarland. Multiple exposures are painstakingly stitched together to create a single unreal moment in time. A reserved spot in a 2007 show at New York's MoMA makes this the year McFarland transforms from Bright Young Thing to a

blinding light in the larger art world. There's a tight waiting list for these prints, which run in highly limited editions, but that isn't deterring savvy collectors from lining up. Get in there while you still can. *Price Tags: \$4,500 to \$28,000 and rising.*

At [Monte Clark Gallery](#)
2339 Granville St., Vancouver, BC, 604-730-5000



Lisa Birke, *Great Canadian Ethnic Pride*, courtesy Bau-Xi Gallery

Lisa Birke's images play up kitschy Canadiana.

Forget the decorative Canadian moose mug. And stop hunting for a cheap box of smoked salmon. If you're looking for an intelligent keepsake of Canadian travels, Lisa Birke is your woman. Crammed with playful Canadian iconography, Birke's latest canvasses harness knee-jerk responses to kitsch imagery and question the way a nation markets itself. A trucker pees in a snow bank, a woman writhes erotically in ropes of maple syrup, and it's all done with Birke's signature acid humour. *Price Tags: \$1,500 to \$18,000.*