

TERENCE DICK in Toronto 06/14/11

Kevin Schmidt at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery
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Kevin Schmidt, *Burning Bush*, 2005, HD DVD

Kevin Schmidt's newly opened survey exhibition at the **Justina M. Barnicke Gallery** is meditative in its own way. Two of the videos on display clock five and eleven hours each; the first a locked-on view of a bush in the wilderness made up to look like it's set aflame, the second a screening of the entirety of *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy as projected on a one-man boat slowly making its way down river (and filmed from another boat following at a short distance). The former changes as the natural daylight shifts and would be worth visiting at different times in the day, particularly if you are of a mind to reflect on the elements. The latter tests my patience and leads me to wonder what other movies could have replaced Peter Jackson's opus (*Fitzcarraldo*? Too obvious.). Tucked in a back room is a further contemplative piece, though one marked with melancholy; *Sad Wolf* tracks the furtive pacing of an omega wolf – the wolf pack's outcast and scapegoat – at the Metro Toronto Zoo. Projected through a hand-made device, the parallel of artist and animal is inescapable: not only are we dysfunctional humans, we're the freaks of the animal kingdom too.



Terence Dick is a freelance writer living in Toronto. He is currently working on an interview with artist Kai Chan, a profile of artist Micah Lexier's apartment, and a book review of YYZ's *Byproduct*. His art criticism has appeared in *Canadian Art*, *BorderCrossings*, *Prefix Photo*, *Camera Austria*, *Fuse*, *Mix*, *C Magazine*, *Azure*, and *The Globe and Mail*. He is the editor of *Akimblog*.

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