



## "Rightfully Yours"

Identity politics in art are so frequently tedious because, for one, they're by nature self-regarding. The difference with "Rightfully Yours," expertly assembled by Justina M. Barnicke Gallery curator-in-residence Tejpal Singh Ajji, is that it culls artists who are, for the most part, not just interested in making their art their hand-mirrors, but in making themselves mirrors for loads of perceived societal expectations. We are even encouraged to indulge in the kinds of ethnically- and sexually-coded viewing habits for which we are usually impugned — an act that can feel fun and funny, putting us at one with the polemical artists and artworks. The main attraction of "Rightfully Yours" is, arguably, its first offering, entitled *Chandelier* (the order of works has been carefully considered, so it's best to follow the numbers on the walls). It is by South African artist Steven Cohen, who has made a lot of ridiculous performance art about his queerness and Jewishness.

*Chandelier* is indeed about those things, as well as Cohen's affluence, but its ridiculousness succeeds: Cohen dresses up in surrealist drag (sort of reminiscent of Baroness Elsa von Freytag-Loringhoven), his head shaved bald and painted with Stars of David, his feet in impossibly high platform shoes, his torso corseted with a chandelier. A video documents his visit in this get-up to an about-to-be-destroyed shantytown outside of Johannesburg, and it's something to behold. Cohen is po-faced and silent throughout, and is read variously by inhabitants as a poncy thing to be destroyed, an outré-but-fuckable tranny and a Messiah. Fittingly, Ajji's last selection is a "personal viewing of Borat, Ali G and Bruno" on YouTube (the exhibition guide provides links) — bookending "Rightfully Yours" with two Cohens, both equally caught up in the power, and problematic watchability, of being abject in an already-abject place.

"RIGHTFULLY YOURS" RUNS TO DEC 30. THU-FRI 11AM-7PM; SAT-SUN 1-4PM. JUSTINA M BARNICKE GALLERY, HART HOUSE, U OF TORONTO, 7 HART HOUSE CIRCLE. 416-978-8398. WWW.JMBGALLERY.CA.

## East End

**PENTIMENTO FINE ART GALLERY** The new works of Christy Haldane. To Jan 6. 1164 Queen E. 416-406-6772.

✧ **ZILBERSCHMUCK ART JEWELLERY** Shape Shifting: monoprints and paintings by Agata Ostrowska. To Sun. 1852 Queen E, ste 101. 416-693-7109.

★ **BEN NAVAE GALLERY** Photography featuring Toronto and the world and original paintings from Roman Kliotzkin, Christopher Peet and Felicia Weinstein. Reception Dec 29, 3-5:30pm. Dec 27-Jan 4. 1111 Queen E. 416-999-1030.

## West End.

✧ **C1 ART SPACE** The Shelf Project 2007: rotating exhibition of works created by artists from across Canada. To Mon. 44 Ossington. 416-538-7999.

**CENTRE FOR ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH** Seventh annual Being Scene Art Exhibition. Ongoing. 1001 Queen W. 416-583-4339.

**CONVENIENCE GALLERY** Ornament/Armament: Orest Tataryn installation. To Jan 7. 58 Landsdowne.

✧ **ENGINE GALLERY** Jump: oil paintings on canvas by Costa Dvoretzky. To Sun. 1112 Queen W. 416-531-9905.

✧ **G+ GALLERIES** LKS Select: photos

by Patrick Lee. To Sun. Gift Hunting 2007: The Very Good Show & Mini-TRAVAGANZA. To Jan 6. 50 Gladstone. 416-535-6957.

**GALLERY 360** Paintings by Elicser. Ongoing. 171 East Liberty, ste 330. 416-537-1529.

**THE GOOD CATCH GENERAL STORE** Keep off the Grass: paintings by Patrick Newmark. Ongoing. 1556 Queen W. 416-533-4664.

**LANDYMOREKEITH CONTEMPORARY ART** Zwart Pit: Legends of the Sea: works by Zorica Vasic. To Jan 7. 800 Dundas W. 416-361-3074.

✧ **LENS FACTORY** Abandoned for the Holidays: works by Mathew Merret. To Mon. 1040 Queen W. 416-988-0929.

**MADE** An installation by design collective Joe & Josephine. To Feb 3. 867 Dundas W. 416-607-6384.

✧ **MOCCA** An Encyclopædia of Memory and Slowness: Works by Shelagh Keeley. The Triumph of Mischief: works by Kent Monkman. To Sun. 952 Queen W. 416-395-0067.

**PRESS CLUB** Send in the Clowns: new works by Madame Hair. To Jan 9. 850 Dundas W. 416-364-7183.

## Yorkville and Uptown.

✧ **IMPRESSIONS ART GALLERY** Intimate Conversations: photos by Lydia

Charak. To Mon. Sculpture: jade and verdite by Lucas Khoza. To Feb 2008. 102 Yorkville. 416-922-3944.

**JOSEPH D CARRIER ART GALLERY** Arctic Quest: Linda Mackey, Kathy Haycock, Bonnie Levinthal. To Jan 12. Columbus Centre, 901 Lawrence W. 416-789-7011 ext. 245.

✧ **LOVECRAFT GALLERY OF EROTIC ART** Photos by Nir Bareket. To Mon. 27 Yorkville. 416-923-7331.

✧ **ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS** Hansel & Gretel by Kayli Rodgers. To Mon. 911 Davenport. www.ilyak.com.

✧ **ROSEDALE DINER** Paintings by Joanne Mitchell. To Mon. 1164 Yonge. 416-923-3122.

**SCOLLARD STREET GALLERY** Works by Paul Aiello, Serge Chriqui, Sean Hollis, more. Ongoing. 112 Scollard. 647-436-9784.

✧ **SCRATCH GALLERY** Jocale, Wearable Art Market: works by gallery artists. To Sat. 1358 Bathurst. 416-536-2220.

**SUNDERLAND GALLERY** Gravity, Force, Freedom/A Group Show: paintings by Janet Potter, King Wong, Mondy Stevenson. To Jan 3. 175 St Clair W. 416-924-9654 x: 221.



Complete listings online at  
**EYE WEEKLY.COM/ARTS**