



**"Cowgirls and Penises #3"
by Shelley Potzold**

SUITCASE ART

drawing, painting and printmaking in her work. Her figures are drawn from photographs of models captured in "in-between" poses, lending an element of ambiguity to the work. She views her works on paper as both transitory and disposable. In her artist statement she writes, "I aim to perplex relationships between figures in order to go beyond binary oppositions between individuality and anonymity and the subject/object divide." This is seen in her incomplete figures; some are half naked, and some are shown only partially drawn.

While Reis's hand-drawn images are of non-idealized and 'real' bodies, Shelley Potzold's prints combine images of kitschy cowgirl pin-up girls riding giant erect penises instead of horses. Some are combined with titles like; "Debbie was so happy that Dick 'matched her new outfit. Dick seems pretty happy too." The women in the work have glossy, gleaming

smiles on their faces, and more closely resemble women who are reclaiming their sexuality than girls who are posing for the male gaze. In another series titled "Rabbit Fucker," the artist is seen in eight separate prints encountering a rabbit, having sex with it, giving birth to a rabbit, and later killing her young.

Pearl van Geest's "Bon Voyage: A Farewell to Broken Hearts" is a suitcase filled with band-aids together with assort-

ed shades of lipstick and the viewer is encouraged to participate by kissing a band-aid in any shade of lipstick. The artist then covers the kiss with a coat of gel medium and the band-aid is given back to the viewer and told; "leave as many kissed band-aids as you can, and take as many as you need."

The journey of this travelling exhibition challenges issues about public and private space, and conceptions of community and mobility are brought into focus. The show is open from April 15-28, with Shelley Potzold's band Samsara playing an acoustic set with doors opening at 8pm.

opinions? comment@echoweekly.com

ART

SANS ÊTRE:

as part of The McCleave
Gallery Cross Canada Tour
until April 28
(Opening April 22, 8pm)
at Artery Gallery

Sun-Thurs: 1-3, Sat: 11-2
www.mccleavegallery.ca

Making a stop in Kitchener is the McCleave Gallery's cross-country suitcase touring exhibition. The McCleave gallery is portable and artwork is contained within several suitcases. It is available for viewing "by chance or by appointment," or at several stops across Canada. This nomadic exhibition will open Friday, April 22 at Artery Gallery showing the work of Natalie Reis, Shelley Potzold and Pearl van Geest.

The project brings together isolated artistic communities that do not interact regularly with each other by connecting artists from across Canada. The journey of this ongoing exhibition is also intended to be viewed as a performance, and thoughts of the process can be viewed on the gallery's weblog.

Once all suitcases have been collected, all work will be displayed together in Dawson City, Yukon, where visitors will be able to touch and interact with the suitcases and view the blog, creating art that is genuinely public.

Showing in Kitchener is Natalie Reis, who incorporates