

MIRROR

Recycle or else!

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Doux process

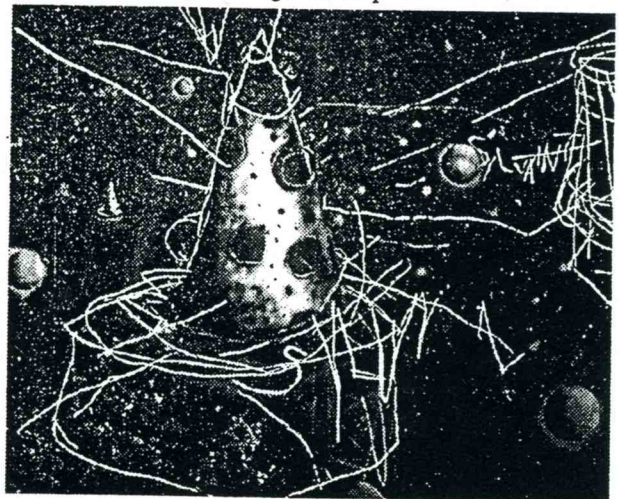
Montreal artist **Sylvain Bouthillete**'s paintings give you the impression of being privy to the blackboard of some crazed scientist. Esoteric scratchings form a filigreed code containing volumes of strange, indecipherable data, and mottled black surfaces form backdrops for his scribbly yet potent musings.

The viewer is beckoned to enter a world of jauntily demented party hats, shaky, drunken clowns and punk-seeped skeletons. Bouthillete proves that, with a healthy enough dollop of derision, old standbys can be rejuvenated and thrust back at a jaded audience. He manages to contemporize subjects like clowns, skeletons and stars, without leaning on the crutch of vacuous kitsch art.

Making art that appears both straightforward and bafflingly dense is one of Bouthillete's strong suits. He offers no universal symbology beyond a few numerals and some references to his deeply held Buddhist beliefs. The rest is up to the audience.

Doux opens tonight, Thursday, Sept. 30 and runs until Oct. 30 at the Dugazon-Couture Gallery, 1460 Sherbrooke W. ☉

—Keith Marchand



Life of the party: "DECLARATION OF SYLVAIN"