



VAV-00M

This week at the VAV

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Retraindo Serez, this week's exhibit at the VAV, features two female artists who get you in touch with the subtlety and complexities of longing and adoration. With disappointing representations of sexuality and sensuality clouding mass media, these artists reclaim the subject by giving it the nuances it deserves.

There exist evanescent pockets of time when you can tell things just by looking at her. During those intimate moments between twilight and dawn, Natalie Reis captures on canvas women with grown-up girl sentiments, gazing away from the viewer and the body that

embraces them. Characterized as the ideal notion of femininity, she is duplicitous, innocent and overtly sexualized.

The exhibit opens up with an introduction of lips, each pair is framed and in different dimensions, the brush strokes are textured and their sfumato nature puzzlingly haunts and allures. Slightly parted, at once moaning, sighing and gasping, we are given the sense of a breath before a flooding confession. The exhibit progresses into the subtle exposition of enigmatic sensuality, with a prevailing mood and rendered feeling of lush melancholy. Reis' work could be best described as the fantasy copulation among Egon Schiele and contemporary performance artist Vanessa Beecroft.

Described by the curators as "terminal nakedness and awakening consciousness," Tiffany Main shows through her sculptures the inner workings of that consciousness. Concentric cubes made of raw wood materials and other such retractable sculptures break up the enchanting moments of Reis' figures, allowing for contemplative pauses. To contemplate the dynamic interplay of relationships and to render you aware of your own perimeters of intimacy. The exhibit renders visual thoughts of the waking lover in the early morning.

The VAV is located in the Visual Arts Building, 1395 René-Lévesque W.

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