Some birthdays are happier than others

HENRY LEHMANN
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Toronto artist Clint Griffin’s collages and snapshots, now at Galerie Trois Points, seem to be of people long since permanently barred from heaven. The birthday in one sullen image titled Happy Birthday is not exactly what we’d call a festive event. In fact, it is as bleak as a blank wall – or as the face of the birthday person in the image, whose features have been scratched out.

Only the birthday sign cheerfully draped above the person’s head and a lone light switch come off relatively unscathed. In the final analysis, though, these obsessive pictures are lovely.

Clint Griffin’s Happy Birthday is at Galerie Trois Points, 372 Ste. Catherine St. W., Room 520, until Feb. 7. For information, call (514) 866-8008.