

XXXMAS

TShow Review: XXXMAS at Pressed on December 21st, 2013
Words: Alanna Why Photo: Andrew Carver

Scru Bar stomped on-stage, dressed in a Santa outfit complete with fake beard and belly. "Oh, ho, ho!" he said into the microphone. "Looks like we've got some presents here!" He pointed to a pile of guitars clumsily wrapped in the centre of the stage, surrounded by plastic candy canes and a glowing string of rainbow lights. Santa Scru Bar reached down, held up a bass and read the tag. "Kurt?" he asked the crowd. "Do we have a Kurt here?"

Kurt made his way through, passing miscreants clad in Christmas sweaters clutching cans of PBR. "That's me!" he said, before unwrapping his bass in fake astonishment and plugging it into his amp. And so it continued as Santa Scru Bar called up the complete XXXMAS crew, containing members of TROPICAL DRIPPS, NEW SWEARS, THE YIPS and GLO-RIOUS MOONROCKETS.

Sammy and Beej Eh of NEW SWEARS held primary singing/go-go dancing duties. "All I want for Christmas is Catherine Zeta-Jones!" A perfect arc of beer splattered onto the crowd before the drums kicked in: XXXMAS was finally here.

The Funboys delivered "Family Dinner", a gem off their third record that contains the line "Rippin B's / Pull the choke for me / On Christmas." Some Napoleon Dynamite hand-dancing action accompanied "Santa's Pissed", before the boys ended with their signature ten-minute cover of WHAM!'s "Last Christmas". Naturally, it resulted in chaos.

Sadly, there was not one holiday rap throughout the entire set. What happened to "Christmas With No Power", "Pants Presents" or "Boom Christmas Trees"? "Fuck XXXMAS, into all the shit night."



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F-Art

This is not a (my) pipe > JULIA DICKENS (Cover Artist)
Fit for the pit > PHIL OSBORNE (Sculpture Detail Pictured Below)

A lot of really talented people made some great doodles / paint splooges / magazine cutouts this year as they have in years past. When I say F-Art I mean to question and make fun of the hierarchy in parts of the art world and the legitimization of the definition of art and what it can be subjectively defined as. IT'S ALSO REALLY FUN TO SAY FART. I used the F-Art title as a way to describe a fucking feminist art show that I put together for Ottawa Explosion weekend, but I will be using it to write semi-critically about art stuff happening in Ottawa.

Julia Dickens, whose work is featured on the cover of this issue, had a December exhibition in a multi-use space, otherwise known as a bar/restaurant. OZ needs to improve the lighting for art or put more attention towards it BUTT Julia's rad work was outtadisworld. Julia creates evocative illustrations, dark and surreal.

A collection of work from a couple movements, I was immediately struck by her large format piece "Peering Out From an Abyss" rimmed by fluorescent foliage, hands pull at the edges sucking you into the darkness behind. Reminiscent stories from an ACE books gothic series, her art invokes fiction, horror mixed with romanticism. Like day-glow cover art for mystery freaks perhaps with some parallels to Jack Gaughan's science fiction illustrations and 1950's horror posters. Genre fuck.

Another stand out piece in which the artist is shown REMOVING THEIR FACE, is clean disturbing as it is Magritte-ist. These portraits, 1 selfie and 2 friends, are shown in black ink on white with swooshes (see Space Jam) of minimal colour delivering a monotone absurdist voice that is absolutely wonderful.

Back from outer space, Phil Osborne's work has been making the rounds all year. Primarily an animator, Phil's spooky / space-y / goo-y, work was seen as projections at shows/festivals, action figures, and an entire Weird Wall which uses puppets to frighten and entice the onlooker/victim. Phil has the ability to create portals to other universes and one can be found in Centretown at a store and lounge on Lisgar St.

Open during the day on Friday, Saturday and Sunday when Phil gets home from working the graveyard shift, Phil's prop art has everything for a zany (picture jazz hands) adventure. After climbing a darkened staircase, zombie state Phil welcomes you into the capsule where you can see 3D monsters through viewfinders, watch movies on a handcrafted arcade game and try on gross alien masks. These haunting products of weird art are fit for the Pit or the set of the Hilarious House of Frightenstein.

Phil creates work under the title Osborne Oddities and his store and living room are located at 401 Lisgar Apt. 3. BRING CASH. 12noon-6pm. Search Osborne Oddities on Etsy to buy monkeypaws and such.



U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

- 1.03 Abject Pax, Concrete Asylum, Silent Order & Bloodnail at Luneta. 7:30 pm/\$6/AA
- 1.10 Funhouse w/ Wrong Hole (Brutal Knights/Teenanger/Quest for Fire) at Mugshots! 10 pm/\$5
- 1.11 Omhouse, Walls are Blonde at Mugshots. 9pm/PWYC
- 1.17 S.H.I.T., Asile, Shackles & Regret at Gabba Hey! 10 pm/\$8
- 1.19 Red Mass at Gabba Hey!
- 1.24 Freeloze Fenner & Grime Kings at Cafe Alt. 9 pm/\$5/AA
- 1.24 Metalian, Midnight Malice, Call Of The Wild, Droid & Occult Burial at Luneta. 7 pm/\$6/AA
- 1.28 Woodsman, Scattered Clouds at Le Troquet (Hull) 10pm/\$8/18+
- 1.29 Leif Vollebekk w/Jon Hynes at St. Alban's. 8pm/\$10
- 1.31 Rotten UK, Hard Charger, Sex Face, Silent Order, Mueco & Slumlord at House of Targ. 7 pm/\$5/AA

- 2.01 Crusades LP release w/ Nervosas & Alaskan at Babylon. 9 pm/\$8
- 2.06 Destroyer presented by Arboretum at St. Alban's Church. 8:30pm/\$10/\$15
- 2.08 Wicked Witches, Dirty Frigs at Mugshots. 9 pm/PWYC
- 2.14/15/16 Ottawa Explosion Presents BRUISED TONGUE 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY BASH!
- 2.14 Funhouse w/ special guests at Mugshots! BT BASH!
- 2.14 Amanita Bloom, Heavy Bedroom + 1 at Cafe Alt. 9 pm/\$5/AA
- 2.28 Bonnie Doon, Notta Comet, Girl Arm at Le Troquet (Hull) 10 pm/\$8/18+
- 2.28 Silver Dapple, Baberham Lincoln + 1 at Cafe Alt. 9 pm/\$5/AA

- 3.1 Pony Girl, The Folk (+1 TBA) at Le Troquet (Hull) 10pm/\$8/18+
- 3.7 HSY, The Beverleys & Blue Angel at Cafe Alt. 9 pm/\$5/AA
- 3.8 You'll Never Get to Heaven, F Hood at Mugshots. 9 pm/PWYC
- 3.13 Swearin', Camp Radio & Dead Weights at Luneta. 9 pm/\$8/AA
- 3.14 Funhouse at Mugshots
- 3.15 Strange Attractor at Gabba Hey!
- 3.22 Peach Kelli Pop at Gabba Hey!
- 3.28 Walrus & Chairs at Cafe Alt. 9 pm/\$5/AA

- 4.12 Pop Crimes at Mugshots. 9 pm/PWYC

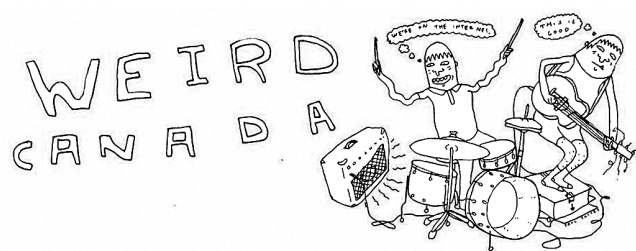
* Bands on early - followed by Night Moves dance party!

If you have anything to add to this next month, please email info@bruisedtongue.com



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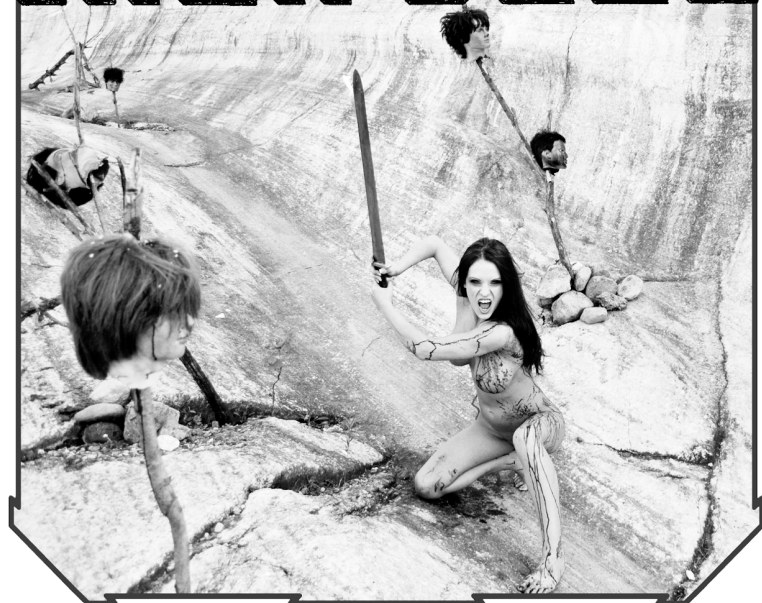
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series at Mugshots Jail Bar

brought to you by Weird
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1.11 Omhouse, Kings Quest,
The Walls Are Blonde

2.08 Wicked Witches, The Dirty
Frigs, tbd

3.08 Doomsquad, You'll never
get to heaven, F Hood

4.12 Pop Crimes, tbd

(Bring a T-shirt)