

## Toronto

Val Nelson at Bau-Xi | Lois Andison at Olga Korper | Christy Langer & Matias Sanchez at Christopher Cutts | The Art of Travel at Tinku Gallery | The Cuckoo Collection at 962 Queen West | Candice Breitz at The Power Plant

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Lois Andison, *the floor's the limit*, 2009, 3-channel DVD

I had prepared my go at the lectern with the notion that the audience would be more inclined to the traditional modes of representational painting or gentle abstraction. I lean more to the conceptual side of the boat, but I'm always willing to give the canvas some attention, relaxing my critical/theoretical side in favour of a more poetic openness. I can talk colour, shape, and brushstrokes with the best of them and that seemed to be about the speed these club members were at.

Imagine my surprise then when my tablemate starts raving about **Lois Andison's** concrete poetry machine at **Olga Korper Gallery**! Huh? I later found out that she was an exception, but based on her description I made an extra effort to head right over there last weekend (just as the exhibition closed) and catch a glimpse of the magical mechanics of Andison's art. The machine in question generates a series of ninety-one words from the single word "heartbreaking". The evocation of loves lost is lost and found in the seemingly random and surprisingly meaningful conjunction of certain words. This piece was matched with the wordless *the floor's the limit* wherein the artist videotaped three separate female rollerskaters as they repeatedly circumnavigate Korper's gallery space. One circles like an animal trapped in a zoo, another glides blissfully through the emptiness, each is a unique character in a solo dance that I like more the less I let myself think about it (which is what I tend to do with dance anyway).