

art

MIXED MEDIA

Andison on a roll

Artist's skaters transform gallery By LEAH SANDALS

LOIS ANDISON at Olga Korper Gallery (17 Morrow), to November 7. 416-538-8220. Rating: **NNNN**

IT'S PRETTY UNUSUAL (OR AS SOME might say, terrible) for a critic to wish that an art show had opened earlier to coincide with movie premieres and celebrity sightings.

Nevertheless, I can't help thinking that Lois Andison's current exhibition, which features a compelling video of women on roller skates, could have benefited from launching with *Whip It* at this year's TIFF – if only to make a couple of sales to Barrymore,

et al., and benefit from associated word of mouth.

Andison's work is certainly strong enough to deserve a wider audience, be it in Hollywood or elsewhere.

Her roller skating video – which is presented in three segments, each unfurling on separate sides of a flat-screen-TV triangle – is a prime example. Each segment shows a different woman gliding across the slick concrete floor of Olga Korper's gallery, transforming the art space into a different kind of competitive arena.

Skating briskly across this usually staid room, Andison's women display a mix of confidence and uncertainty



Lois Andison's roller skating video combines a sense of play with a feeling of risk.

that feels very real. As they attempt tricks and close-to-the-wall turns, their expressions contain both guardedness and vulnerability, strength and silliness, fierceness and solemnity.

There's also a sense of play and risk that comes through in Andison's architectural substitution – how do you use a gallery to its maximum potential? By covering every inch with activity? By delivering isolated virtuoso displays? By simply exhausting oneself? All of the above?

Another artwork, called Heart-

breaking, manipulates similar tensions. In it, a machine displays the letters of the word "heartbreaking" in every possible readable combination, Wheel Of Fortune-style. What comes out is a very particular take on love stories, one that is both romantic and robotic, both suspenseful and certain.

Overall, this show (including, ahem, its timing) isn't perfect. But it's good, really very good.

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MUST-SEE SHOWS

A SPACE GALLERY Bringing Down Our Dead (Latino Canadian Cultural Assoc.), Oct 30-Dec 12, reception/performance 7-9 pm Oct 30. 401 Richmond W #110. 416-979-9633.

ARTA GALLERY Metal Arts Guild of Canada: 2067 – Crafting The Future, Oct 31-Nov 19. Land & Conflict (Planet in Focus Film Fest): Babak Salari, to Nov 6 (closed Oct 29-31). 55 Mill, bldg 9, #102. 416-364-2782.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Performance/in-

stallation: Maria Flawia Litwin, Oct 30-Nov 8, reception 6-9 pm Oct 30. 1080-1086 Queen W. 416-993-6510.

CLARK & FARIA Photos: Greg Girard, to Nov 15. 55 Mill, bldg 2. 416-703-1700.

GALLERY 44 Photos: Joe Calleja, to Nov 7. Animation/photos: Eryn Foster and John van der Woude, to Nov 28. 401 Richmond W #120. 416-979-3941.

GALLERY TPW War At A Distance group show, to Nov 21, talk 7 pm Oct 29, reception 7:30-

9:30 pm Oct 30. 56 Ossington. 416-645-1066.

LEONA DRIVE PROJECT Artist and student installations in vacant bungalows, to Oct 31, closing party Oct 31. 17 Leona. leonadrive.ca.

MAGIC PONY Painting: Stephen Appleby-Barr, Oct 29-Nov 29, reception 7-10 pm Oct 29. 694 Queen W. 416-861-1684.

OLGA KORPER Sculpture: Lois Andison, to Nov 7. 17 Morrow. 416-538-8220.

PAUL PETRO Chris Bowman, to Nov 1. Painting/video: Gary Evans and Su Rynard, to Nov 14. 962/980 Queen W. 416-979-7874.

PEAK GALLERY Installation: Kathryn Dain,

Nov 3-28. 23 Morrow. 416-537-8108.

STEPHEN BULGER Photos: Bertrand Carrière, Oct 31-Nov 21. 1026 Queen W. 416-504-0575.

TORONTO IMAGE WORKS Photos: Katy McCormick, to Dec 8, reception 5-7 pm Oct 29. Photos: Brent Lewin, to Oct 29, 80 Spadina. 416-703-1999.

TAPE Video: Ali Kazimi, John Greyson and Richard Fung, to Nov 14. 401 Richmond W. 416-351-1317.

WARC Installation: Rita Kamacho, to Oct 31. 401 Richmond W #122. 416-977-0097.

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