



## 2005 YEAR IN REVIEW /// VISUAL ARTS

# Standout sightings

by **CHRISTINE REDFERN**

So much to choose from, so little time... when I look back over the past year, the following are a few of the works made by local artists that particularly caught my eye.

**Ondulation** by **Thomas McIntosh**, with **Mikko Hynninen** and **Emmanuel Madan**, was a mesmerizing installation composed of water, sound and light at the Musée d'art contemporain. **Isabelle Hayeur**—whose video installation last year for Champ Libre I picked as my favourite piece of art in 2004—didn't rest on her laurels. This year she was back with her fictional landscapes that make us think about the environmental transformations we're making as a society. Her photographs were at Thérèse Dion Art Contemporain and also at the **Urban Territories** exhibition, still on at the Mac. **Urban Territories** also includes a funny five-channel video installation **Guardia, resguárdeme** by **Emmanuelle Léonard**, in which she filmed Mexican security guards with a camera hidden in her hat. A nice twist where, for once, the watched watch the watchers.

The best festival this year was Studio 303's **Edgy Women**, which, miraculously for a festival, did not include one stinker evening. The opening-night cabaret included my personal highlight of this year, **Nathalie Claude's** over-the-top brilliant performance **Lapin-moi**. Also inspirational was South African artist **William Kentridge's** retrospective at the Mac and Chicago-based **Sabrina Raaf's** works at Oboro. The 1964 video **Meat Joy** by **Carolee Schneemann**, shown at Articule, illustrated how much time can alter our interpretation of a

piece. No longer are the writhing, underwear-clad bodies shocking, but when they put the raw chickens into their mouths, that did get me shrieking. Another standout work at Articule was **Reframing** by **Fariba Samsami**. In it, Samsami showed a video of a demonstration of veiled women in Iran and confronted the viewer with a new imposed identity. The photo booth installation produced for everyone



**FRUIT FLIES:**  
*Geostationary Banana Over Texas*

a shot of themselves wearing a veil.

The end of the year is also a time for redemption, a time to cleanse my spirit and apologize to all the hard-working artists whose exhibi-

