

## SEAT SALE

Return  
Fare

- TORONTO 177<sup>00</sup>
- MONTREAL 134<sup>00</sup>
- ST. JOHN'S 139<sup>00</sup>
- OTTAWA 145<sup>00</sup>

**BOOK SOON!  
BOOK NOW!**

**TRAVELCUTS**  
MAIN LOBBY  
DAL SUB  
424-2054



## UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE



## DALHOUSIE

### GENERAL AND ACADEMIC BOOKS

Publications by Members of the  
University Community  
Specialists in the Health Sciences  
Free Title Search and Out-of-  
Print Services  
Special Orders Placed Worldwide

### UNIVERSITY CRESTED ITEMS, SUNDRIES AND PARAPHERNALIA

Class and School Rings  
Crested Glass, Ceramic and Pewter  
Mugs, Crested Glassware, Bookends,  
Executive Desk-top Items, Lapel  
Pins, Small Brooches, Jewellery,  
Plates, Spoons, and other things.  
Jackets, Sweatsuits, Shirts, Sweaters,  
T-Shirts, Other Tops, and  
Children's Clothing, in a wide  
variety of styles and colours, and  
embossed with a range of crest,  
designs and lettering.

Polyester and Silk Dalhousie  
Ties in various styles and  
colours; for women, Dalhousie  
Scarves, also in a selection of  
colours, styles and fabrics.

Watercolours of the University,  
Watercoloured Christmas and  
Note Cards.

**Extended Hours for week of Jan. 5-10**

Mon. to Fri. — 8 am to 7 pm

Sat. — 9 am to 5 pm

Regular Hours will commence on Jan. 12

## ARTS

# Downstairs at the Cohn '86

By **HEATHER HUESTON**

There is a lot to look at in the single show room of the Dalhousie Art Gallery. Till January 11, the gallery is showing a juried exhibition of works by artists of Visual Arts Nova Scotia (VANS).

The cursory title, *Visual Facts '86*, could just have easily been *Visual Things Downstairs at the Cohn '86*. It's just a name to lump together a very disparate group of works.

The exhibition is not a retrospective of VANS' ten-year history — all of the works were made in the last four years — and it's not a representative sampling of current creative visual work being done in Nova Scotia. As the catalog says, "there are no dominant themes, modes or principles". The main thing that VANS wanted to do was get their artists more exposure.

And so, 49 artists are being exposed. The selected pieces include painting, a few sculpture and jewelry/wearable art pieces, photography and mixed media.

The paintings range from living-room-hangable watercolours and landscapes to huge abstract canvases, the kind often seen hanging in the foyers of office buildings and universities — a big exercise in colours, juxtaposing and balancing one another.

There are also paintings with messages. Noreen Gobeille's *Take Your Pick*, is a subtle salute to consumerism complete with a tilted kitchen table covered in sketchy half-portraits of appliances and brandname grocery items (your Crisco, your Blue Bonnet, etc.,) Other messages are more direct, such as Eric Walker's almost folk art mixed media pictures made of carpet and wood cuts-outs on plywood. Born in Halifax, Walker's images are more "down home" slices of Maritime life, flattened and simplified — but on purpose.

I liked the mixed media images of Wayne Boucher. His huge, red kitchen tile piece, called appropriately, *The Floor*, comes with a glued-on dog food bowl and laminated black dog. The colours are

dramatic and so is his second entry, *Pepper No. 2*. with just charcoal and graphite on paper — the simplest materials — he can create the essence of an animal, using heavy, almost spastic strokes, sometimes erased or drawn over.

Except for Alvin Comiter's solid documentary-style photos of downtown Halifax, the photography was accompanied by text and was generally used for political and feminist concerns.

Bruce Barber's *Remembering Vietnam* triptych neatly upends the moralizing ads you've probably see for United Technologies (the plain ones with a half-page hymn to America).

Susan Mills uses photos of dolls, each labelled SHE, as part of a story book look at what exactly little girls are playing with.

Overall, *Visual Facts '86* addresses many of the current trends in art as well as the traditional forms. It isn't a bold salon of new ideas, but it does give you a good feeling of what's going on in the arts in the province.



## GAZETTE

Name: **Bunny Graffitti**

Age: 21

Occupation: Self-deluded fashion victim

Living: in sin

Our cable got cut off and I had a lot of free time. And so I started writing for the Gazette's Culture section. Tomorrow, I'm having lunch with the Pope. People I don't even know come to me for advice. People I don't even like pretend they are my friends. I think I'll start my own religion.

(We need culture writers because the ones we have are overworked and uninspired. Staff meetings are Thursdays at 4. Or drop by.)