

Mitchell Wiebe: Creature Feature

GALLERY PAGE AND STRANGE, HALIFAX AUG 20 TO SEP 3 2008



Mitchell Wiebe, *Misfits Mingle*, 2008

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Imagine a place where dancing bears, toy dogs and other eccentric creature characters whirl happily above a vortex of licorice, gasoline, bubble gum and tattoos. That's just one of the highly idiosyncratic scenarios that populate "Imagination Nation," an exhibition of new paintings by Halifax artist Mitchell Wiebe currently on view at Page and Strange. Wiebe is something of a local legend in Halifax for his unique brand of serious nonsense. These "portal shifters," as he calls his canvases, make full use of that unconventional edge in image constructions that match a surreal narrative sensibility with a deftly orchestrated kaleidoscope of colour and texture. But these paintings are not all fun and games: the more you look, the further you see that the comic surface play and candy colours of Wiebe's fantastic daydreams are mere decoys for a fragmented, sinister undertone. Suddenly, whimsical becomes decidedly nightmarish—think the Brothers Grimm in spinning Technicolor. (1869 Granville St, Halifax NS)

- www.pageandstrange.com



Mitchell Wiebe, *Imagination Nation*, 2008

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Full Opening and Event Listings

Dozens of openings, talks and screenings to take in from coast to coast this week, August 28 to September 3, 2008.