

artBeat

THE ARTS IN REVIEW

Art> *Brushstrokes/With Apologies*

Works by Garry Kennedy and Cathy Busby, The Bathroom Gallery, 5515 Falkland Street. Until August 5.

This joint show, which features "bathroom art" by Garry Kennedy and Cathy Busby, would not be effective anywhere but a bathroom gallery, and Evan Quigley's works just fine. The room is tiny, which always makes for a long line of waiting patrons on opening night. Once inside, this exhibit is worth the wait.

Kennedy's installation, *Brushstrokes*, features neat and evenly spaced toiletries velcroed to the wall and sharing one thing in common—packaging complete with the all-too-common, god-awful-ugly, computer-generated paintbrush swoosh. These designs make me think of the '80s, when neon reigned supreme. Pastel-coloured abstract patterns which look like your mother's kitchen floor and the Mondrian-esque L'Oreal squares make appearances as variations on the swoosh.

The "brushstroke" infiltrates many products available on drugstore shelves, including tampons, diapers, hairspray, curling gel, nail-clippers and lip balms. The idea of creating a "painting" with the accumulation of these brushstrokes is an amusing one. But beyond this idea, I was disappointed by the unimaginative symmetry found in the arrangement of the items. I've been told Kennedy keeps a list of every person he has ever met and *Brushstrokes* is in keeping with such a personality. It looks like the work of an obsessive-compulsive interior decorator. When I snagged a few moments of bathroom alone time, I got a creepy feeling. Just me and the staring products.

Busby's hand and face towels are more inviting. The elegance of the white, embroidered lettering is so attractive—as are the soft green and yellow colours of the towels themselves. Busby borrows real apologies found in newspapers and uses them as quotes on the towels. She then apologizes for using other people's apologies in a typed letter taped to the bathroom door.

With Apologies is funny like *Brushstrokes* in terms of its symbolism. Embarrassing moments and shameful mistakes are wiped clean from the body and left embedded in the towels. The multi-layered meaning is executed through a simple presentation. The towels are just lovely and I want a set of my very own. —Carla Gillis

sureThings

The Bathroom Gallery>

Artist and curator Evan Quigley gets his share of ink in The Coast because he's putting out: He held the Pie Bake-Off with real pies at Anna Leonowens; engaged in the Staring Contest with Sarah Bennett at eyelevelgallery; and posted the glossy photo with Craig Francis Power that went for astonishing and bogus-sounding big bucks on eBay. Telephone poles around town are layered with posters for Quigley events, their pages fading and flapping like flowers of the seasons in various stages of wilt. Quigley has a self-described cute-boy attitude, and a precocious schoolboy air and sartorial splendour, all of which may be a protective veneer. And there's The Bathroom Gallery, located, just as one might expect, in his own bathroom.

Regular gallery hours are Sundays, 2-4pm or by appointment. Quigley curates small shows and holds openings, and since anyone can go to a gallery opening, it's as good as getting invited to a party. Friday the 13th sees shows by two artists open simultaneously, which may be a first. Cathy Busby has a show called *With Apologies*, towels so embroidered. The other artist is Garry Kennedy, showing *Brushstrokes*, an assemblage of drugstore and bathroom items. Mr. Kennedy has enjoyed some success with his art career. Cake and dancing.

July 13, 7-9pm, The Bathroom Gallery, 5515 Falkland Street, free, 431-2099

Food Not Bombs> Once in a while, it's good to have food that doesn't involve a drive-thru window or money changing hands, and good to remember that food used to come from the ground without the help of barcodes or styrofoam. Certainly it's rare to have food in public for free. These folks hold a community vegetarian potluck, using free food they've collected. Anyone can go and anyone can contribute. Probably any food you bring will have cost you money, but if you prepare it and bring it in your own hands, the teeter-totter of consumerism will tilt slightly.

Every Sunday, 1pm, North Branch Library, 2285 Gottingen Street, free, 429-0293