

# MIRROR

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## High art harassed

Three exhibits tackle tradition

by MARGOT BOUMAN

### ART

#### A local voice

Montreal artist and musician Sylvain Bouthillette has successfully united the broader cultural currents and transitional lines of development to a local voice in an exhibition of paintings and sculpture at the Galerie Clark. Through the use of animal iconography (crow, gopher), Bouthillette provides the viewer with familiar images that permit a port of entry into what are otherwise the painter's paintings. The meaningless words he has brought into his visual discourse elliptically refer to one of the on-going concerns in the art world at large: providing a multi-layered code that refers to the dual consciousness of text and image. Using tangential references, his spare canvases trace a narrative path with markings that seem to deal more with references to personal history than with more urgent, here-and-now concerns.

The sculptures in the exhibition serve the same user-friendly function as the icons in his canvases, that of a bridge between the artist's voice and a possibly artistically alienated viewer.



**Bridging artist and viewer** The meaningless words Bouthillette presents in his visuals refer to on-going concerns in the art world

■ At Galerie Clark, 1591 Clark, till June 13