

## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

## Intriguing new art at Beanz Café

Andie Bulman  
Assignment Editor

Ordinarily, the exhibits displayed on the walls of Beanz coffee shop are dignified oil on canvas scenes inspired by the local sights, serious black and white photographs of impoverished far away places or underwater creatures painted by artist-about-town Karl Mackeeman. Consequently the work displayed at Beanz is rarely:

- a) thought provoking or
- b) affordable.

However the newest exhibit to hit the hip little espresso bar offers an unusual and inexpensive alternative artist Kira Maros explains.

"We call the art "the days off" exhibit. The joining theme between the works of myself and the other artist Andrea Macdonald is that they show that people are more than what they do. That people can have a day job and be creative on the days off."

Maros also explains while the primary reason for displaying the art is to show that people do not have to be defined by their careers, some of the paintings are also influenced by her recent frustrations with environmental issues.

"I've been upset lately by certain attitudes that people have toward Earth, so I drew the Earth as a baby in a womb to demonstrate how fragile it is. I hope that it makes people think"

The paintings which are bright swirling abstractions or block depictions of plain objects like toast or birds, are all very affordable, demonstrating Maros and Macdonald's unique attitude toward price.

"Art should be shared and it should be accessible. I don't know a lot of super rich people but I do know a lot of people who enjoy art, so I can't justify price being a barrier.

"The days off" art will be in display at Beanz café until March 26th, with prices ranging from \$20 to \$60.

"We really want to share this art with people".

## DOMINO'S PIZZA NOW OFFERS GREAT STUDENT DISCOUNTS!



Get great prices on pizza when you present your UPEI student i.d.

566-9000

large pepperoni, \$7.99  
large with 3 toppings, \$8.99  
large with 5 toppings, \$9.99

Delivery to UPEI campus, Browns Court and surrounding areas only.  
Must present student i.d.

## ECMA Road Diaries

Kent Aitken  
Reporter

The Delta Halifax was already buzzing with activity when we strolled in at noon Wednesday, Feb. 14, and it only got worse as the weekend wore on. The Delta was the epicenter of the event, hosting delegates, housing the radio station and showcasing music. The Bluenose room became the Seinnheiser Lounge for the weekend and had performers lined up until 5 every morning, at which point anyone interested could take the stage. This led to some spectacular jams and Gordie Johnson (Big Sugar) playing "All Hell for a Basement" shortly before the sun rose to the delight of the hardcore nighthawks.

The ECMAs take over the host city every year. Aside from the Delta, you'll find showcases at various venues such as Tribeca, Ginger's, The Pavillion (Halifax's answer to Charlottetown's Boys and Girls Club), The New Palace (new, still filthy) and the ECMA Mainstage in the World Trade and Convention Centre. As well, many bands

that don't get asked to showcase form Nocases scattered around the city which expose hidden gems.

The Gala Awards Show is a dent in the weekend, a fraction of the true goings-on. While the show this year was great, it doesn't crack the highlight reel.

Their Majesties at Gus's Pub was the first jaw-dropper of the weekend. This 400 lb combined 5-piece blazer clad indie-rock band closed a Nocase and despite an atrocious house sound system had the crowd eating out of their hands. Some of the most creative, catchy and well constructed music of the weekend - from a band that looks scarcely old enough to be in a bar - was enough to impress us.

Saturday night at Ginger's was the Music Newfoundland Showcase. It featured Mark Bragg (an absolute treat who appears to border on psychotic) who was outdone only by Ron Hynes. Ron Hynes is the man behind "Sonny's Dream" and an ECMA powerhouse. He's also

probably the only East Coast musician with enough "street cred" to make fun of people for talking while he's singing and have no one think ill of him. More importantly, he's the most believable songwriter you could ever hope to hear.

The after party scene at the Delta is really - REALLY - something special. The Seinnheiser Lounge was a solid party until 5 every morning. Of course, it's hard to shut things down when Matt Anderson is stepping on stage to jam with a band or The Tom Fun Orchestra (really very fun) is playing a monster set - it really dispels any notions of sleeping.

Then, after the stage cleared away, guitars and fiddles started appearing in suites around the hotel. It was hard to walk around any floor and not find a new after-after party starting.

The ECMAs aren't a CBC Awards show. They're a cultural phenomenon, an amazing community of people and one of the best weekends of the year. See you in Fredericton February 2008.