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* To June 8th*

In a medium size gallery near a large mountain range across a body of water can be found long photographs of giant things. PACIFIC TO ATLANTIC: CANADA'S GIGANTIC is on at Presentation House Gallery in North Vancouver until June 8th. Vancouver artist Henri Robideau has coined the term, "giantropological" to define his interest in the outsized, the larger-than-life. He has travelled across Canada photographing what he calls "the giant things of Canada". Animals, people, religious symbols and food are all presented not as they actually exist but as they have been created by people for publicity, as symbols and as landmarks.

Human beings seem to be fascinated by the absurd. Robideau has devised a method of photographing these gigantic objects so that they are larger than standard photographs and in an irregular shape, but somehow match that which is being photographed. He butts sections of a panorama together, in black and white, so that there is the feeling of the outsized, captured and confined within a frame.

Robideau brings a gentle sense of humour to his art, subtly poking fun at the out-of-synch objects and their reason for being. At the same time, he quite seriously documents a phenomena as it exists because it exists.

PACIFIC TO ATLANTIC: CANADA'S GIGANTIC looks at oddities and encourages us to realize that maybe, just maybe, they are less odd than they are telling about why we are the way we are.

Henri Robideau has had many exhibitions in Canada and elsewhere. This exhibition is a good opportunity to see both his older pieces and new ones. As this show points out, giant things are a lot more common than one would imagine. . . just look at the big watch at Expo and then go see his work. Whether Canadian or Swiss, big is a powerful statement on twentieth century society and cannot be missed, if only because it is there.

I'm _____ for Jill Pollack and QM Entertainment.

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(please copy)

PRESENTATION HOUSE GALLERY
333 Chesterfield
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