

Artists without borders

Over 100 local art enthusiasts turned out for the opening of three new winter exhibits at the Art Gallery of Windsor Friday.

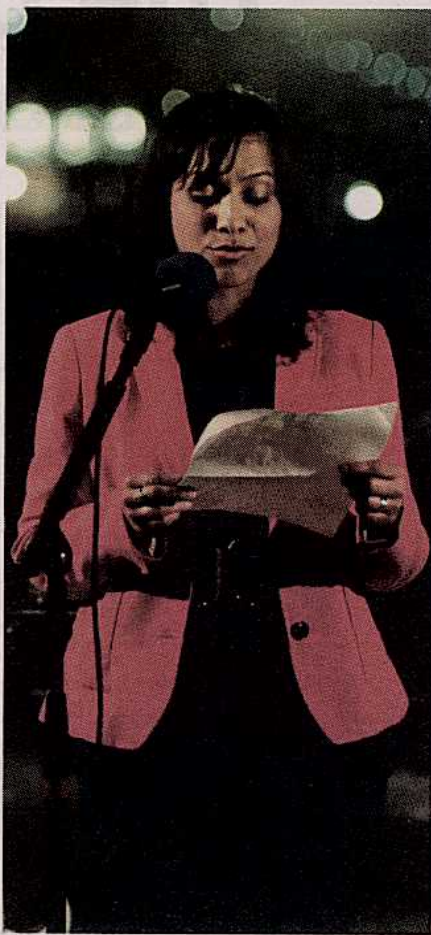
The exhibits are part of a three-year commitment by the AGW to develop a dialogue about the differences and similarities that exist along border regions and the way they shape everyday life and play into the collective cultures of Windsor and Detroit.

Last year's *Border Cultures: Part One (homes, land)* exhibit is revisited in a second installment called Part Two (work, labour). Participating artists include those from Canada, United States, India, UK and of Métis origin.

Historical struggles in the region are documented in the exhibit, including the Underground Railroad, the anti-segregation protests in the auto factories and migrant workers.

"[*Border Cultures: Part One*] brought together 10 artists from different parts of Canada and across the world to explore questions of belonging, nationhood and displacement," said curator Srimoyee Mitra. The goal with the next exhibit is "to continue the research and the dialogue on the border that we embarked upon last year."

Yousuf Karsh: The Ford Motor Company of Canada also opened to patrons Friday. The photo exhibit documents Karsh's 1951 Ford commission examining the daily lives of auto workers. A related film installation, *Ford City: Working the Line*, is also on display. The film looks at the assembly line process at Ford's Windsor plant in 1938. The film is researched and produced by independent curator Rosemary Donegan. Both Ford exhibits run until April 6. Works from *Border Cultures: Part Two (work, labour)* are on display until April 13.



» Photos Jay Verspeelt

albums >>



☆☆☆☆
LITTLE SWAY
CRISSI COCHRANE
SELF-RELEASED

It's not quite ringing in the new year, but the sounds of this Windsor made album are starting 2014 in the record grooves of sometime around 1964.

Crissi Cochrane is the Halifax born Windsor singer songwriter with apt east coast sensibilities. Her new record, *Little Sway*, is a remarkable and ineffable production of lounge jazz and sentimental imagery.

The tracks have an elaborate kinship with the likes of Feist, Coeur De Pirate, Nora Jones, scenes from *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (and by extension Mancini) and friends The Walkervilles. Each bits of those acts can be effortlessly plucked from the sound as it fills the room.

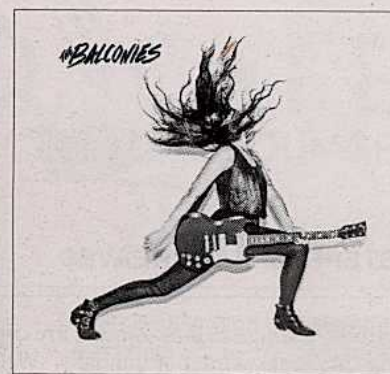
The entire record features Walkervilles bassist and drummer Michael Hargreaves and Stefan Cvetkovic, as well as other performers such as Walkervilles singer and guitarist Pat Robitaille and former Yellow Wood singer Adam Rideout of Arkells.

It's the kind of record you want to listen to while taking Via Rail, hiking up Mount Royal or just sitting in a café like Taloola, with people watching and quietly grinning at clientele in some pseudo-anthropological study.

Canada has a strange way of producing the best independent music while exporting the worst in parallel, because only in Canada can we have Dan Mangan but be known for Nickelback. Crissi Cochrane, particularly on this album, gives that idea a hope of change.

In the meantime, be it hipster nostalgia or or adult contemporary, Cochrane's music has something for everyone.

— JAY VERSPEELT



☆☆☆☆
FAST MOTIONS
THE BALCONIES
COALITION RECORDS

Ottawa expat trio The Balconies displace their indie rock/pop vibe of 2011's *Kill Count EP* for a brash of raw energy on their first full-length album.

Released Tuesday, *Fast Motions*, maintains radio-friendly qualities that are sure to guarantee group airplay.

The album was put in the hands of Canadian producer Arnold Lanni, the notable frontman for 1980s power pop groups Frozen Ghost and Sheriff and producer for Our Lady Peace, Finger Eleven and Thousand Foot Krutch.

While melodic sounds permeate this album, the harder lyrics and deeper undertone suggest a shift from The Balconies' earlier work; seemingly coinciding with the group's move from their hometown of Ottawa to Toronto.

The first track, "Boys and Girls," evokes raw power and a desire to put on some daisy dukes, leather boots and do a shot of Jack Daniels; almost.

Included in the 10-song album is a brasher re-recording of their 2011 single "Kill Count." "The Slo" employs a softer, seductive harmony akin to Lana Del Rey.

Lead singer Jacquie Neville, a pleasant and moderately quiet person off stage, comes into her own with an electrifying dose of energy in this record. *Fast Motions* is the best thing to come off The Balconies since Michael Jackson dangled a baby off one.

— NATASHA MARAR

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