

Live Biennial fights boredom with *Freedom, Barbed Wire*

For such a small burg there's plenty of competition for the arts dollar in the next week. **Chagall** at the VAG, **The Basement Show** downtown the ongoing isolation of **Pamela Masik**, and of course, the **Writers (and Readers) Fest**, continuing until the end of the



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weekend. Head-spinning variety makes my job difficult. So I'll scrunch my eyes shut and point my finger at...at... *Live Biennial* it is, then—a series of performance art happening at sites around town. This week the Western Front opens with *Freedom* by **Peter Conlin**, a two-week show in which he divvies the room into sections and invites the public to interact; **Jamie McMurray** gets back to his farm-boy roots at the Front with *Barbed Wire*, a performance based on all the violent and self-destructive things rural boys do just to fight boredom, on Saturday, (Oct. 25) starting at 7 p.m. Not far away that same day from noon to 5 p.m. at the YWCA thrift shop, 4300 Main, **Lori Weidenhammer** dons herself in the fineries reminiscent of popular images of domestic engineers in *One Hundred Housewives*. Equally neat-o is *Dinner: For Corporeal and Radiant Beings*, in which **Dinka Pignon** presents video feeds that have real supper guests dining with virtual ones. Huh. This is just the beginning, folks. *Live* continues through November, so stay tuned here for more updates, and check out www.livevancouver.bc.ca.

Don't be intimidated; they're just superstars is all. The doors of the Electra, formerly the BC Hydro building, will be open at Nelson and Hornby from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Thursday for *The Basement Show*, showing the work of **Douglas Coupland**, **Graham Gillmore**, **Angela Grossmann**, **Attila Richard Lukacs** and **Derek Root**. Five of

the most serious names in art display their stuff for seven days only, and then poof, they're gone. For examples check out www.basement-show.com.

Diane Farris Gallery continues the **Cherry Hood** exhibit entitled *Bruder*, in which the acclaimed Australian painter makes comments in watercolour about the place of adolescence in pop culture, at 1590 W. 7th Ave.

Geist, Canada's erudite literary-journalism magazine and the pride of many a B.C. literary mind, whoops it up at the Writers (and Readers) Festival with readings, storytelling and a custom-designed cake to celebrate its Jubilee issue, at Performance Works Saturday (Oct. 25). Tickets for \$10 at the door, 604 681-9161, 1218 Cartwright St. on Granville Island. More on the fest, of course, at www.writerfest.bc.ca.

Craig Sibley shows his sculpture from Thursday to Nov. 6 at the Winsor Gallery downtown, with a do with the artist in attendance from 5:30 p.m. at 667 Howe, 604 681-4870.

Before I knew the title of **Paul**

Chizik's show at the Elliott Louis Gallery I thought, 'Hmm...looks oddly Canadian. Very Ontario cottage-country stuff.' And voila, Chizik's paintings are called *Canadian Autumn: Cross Section of New Work*, and they'll hang at 1540 W. 2nd Ave. (the Waterfall building) to Nov. 2.

Not too much on the literary front, given that most readers will be flocking to Granville Island for the Writers Fest, but here's a nice-sounding freebie: Thursday, **Sarah Dunant** drops by Women In Print at 7:30 p.m. to read from *The Birth of Venus*, a novel about a young woman discovering beauty in Florence, at 3566 West 4th Ave., 604-732-4128.

Time to shove your neighbour out of the way, elbows poking in others' guts. It's all worth it for book-lovers scouring for loads of 50-cent novels. If history serves, there'll be madding crowds of readers at the VPL's fall book sale Thursday to Sunday, from 10 a.m. every day but Sunday, when the Alice MacKay room opens at 1 p.m. Early birds get the best cheap goodies. 