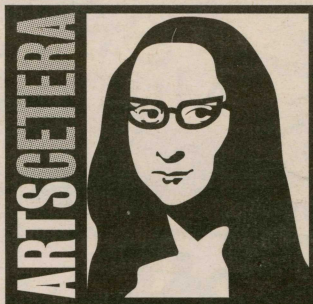


# Book Awards honour photo art

I can't stand tied-wins. They fly in the face of my need for closure. I want a clear winner, a bunch of noble runner-ups, and *finito*, done, overwith. But when the **City of Vancouver Book Awards** judges (editor/author George Fetherling, librarian Anne Yandle and bookseller Michael Varty) announced a tie in this year's competition last week, I grimaced—then I realized, yes, I had to grow up. I had to open the ol' noggin, and acknowledge how such high standards in local publishing (and in this case, photography) can make judging such a competition such a chore. In this case, in the 15th year of the award, and when a record number of books were submitted, a compromise, in a tie, is called for. *Every Building on 100 Block West Hastings*, a series of essays on the Downtown Eastside, based on **Stan Douglas'** remarkable fairy-tale like photograph of the street (a mini fold-out version hangs in my office cubicle) won the award. But so did *Herotines*, the poignant collection of photographs of women in the Downtown Eastside, captured so honestly in black and white by **Lincoln Clarkes**. The two split the \$2,000 booty in the first tie in the history of the award. I think



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it's no accident that both books are based on photography—Vancouver's photo-based artistry is known globally—and the relevant issues of the Downtown Eastside.

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The Helen Pitt gallery continues with the Live Biennial of Performance Art at 882 Homer Tuesday (Nov.4) at 8 p.m. with The Comedians, courtesy of **Vanessa Kwan, Josh Neelands** and **Kara Uzelman**. It'll be a two-hour performance with looped dialogue and synchronized gestures based on traditional stand-up comedy fare.

The next evening at 8 p.m. **Devon Gifford** and **Mark Gilliland** perform **TAKE THAT PAINT!! PUT IT THERE!! YOU CAN DO IT!! CAUSE YOU CARE!!** It'll be either annoying as hell or a funky-sounding series of cheers (as in cheerleading)

in support of local artists. Gifford will also be visiting artists in their studios with a cheer or two.

**Mia Weinberg**, a local artist who uses a technique that pre-dates photographic technology, has collaborated with **Kate Colle** on unique images of dragonflies, maps and plants at Studio BlueUnit 202-1540 West 2nd Ave. from Nov. 6 to month's end.

onepointsix gallery downtown, brings in *Wish You Were Here*, the latest works of **Henry Mah**, 878 Homer.

Lit lovers take note: **Karen X. Tulchinsky** visits the library to read from her *The Five Books of Moses Lapinsky* Monday, as part of the Barbara Bluman Memorial Lecture Series, happening in the Alice MacKay room, in the lower level, at 7:30 p.m., 350 West Georgia. If you miss her, watch out for Lapinsky at the Jewish Book Festival (but more on that next week).

The Vancouver Poetry Slam brings in the pop culture/beat sounds of **Ralph Alfonso** Monday (Nov. 3) for a performance at Caf Deux Soleils, 2096 Commercial. An open slam will also be held with those spoken-word artists who want to qualify for the 2004 Vancouver Poetry Slam Team, doors 7 p.m., five bucks. ☐

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