

# FAB Gallery explores printmaking, science and magic

## Science=Magik

MFA Printmaking Exhibit  
Isaac Bushman  
Runs 3-23 December  
FAB Gallery

ELLIOT KERR  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Looking at the heavily layered and intricate images of his most recent prints, it's easy to see it's been a long evolution for Isaac Bushman, who opens his final show as a candidate for an MFA in Printmaking next week.

"I kind of fell into printmaking," Bushman says. "I was a painter, but I was always intrigued with printmaking, and my instructor at [Utah State University], Koichi Yamamoto, graduated from the University of Alberta with his Masters, and he really pushed me in that direction. The facilities we have here are amazing."

"When I first came up here, I was doing the whole abstract expressionist thing, but I wanted to change that. So right when I got here, I got really into graffiti—just the written word, the tag, someone's name scrawled really fast, rather than full-blown graffiti. I'm fascinated by the muscle memory

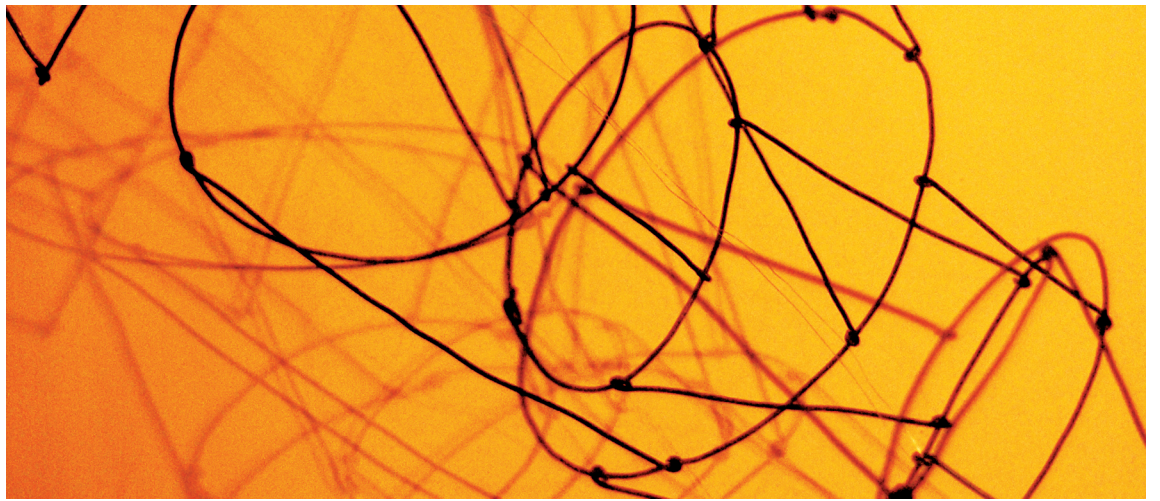
required to write things really fast and say, 'I'm alive, I'm here, that's why I'm writing this thing'"

Bushman's interest in the three-dimensional look of graffiti and tagging got him started on sculptures that were based on the written form, and then taking photographs of those sculptures and transforming them into prints.

The product of his exploration is in his current show, *Science=Magik*. It examines the relationship between the structure and rationality typically associated with science, and the spontaneity and insight of a magical or creative approach.

The prints superimpose photos and drawings of Bushman's wire sculptures onto a variety of abstract, grayscale images filled with gestural marks. The show also features some of the sculptures themselves, as well as other drawings.

"Basically I'm drawing between two different influences, one being the abstract expressionists like Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko," Bushman explains. "They're into the gestural mark and letting things happen in the moment. But then I also use these other marks that are opposed to that, where



LAUREN STIEGLITZ

**BETTER THAN HARRY POTTER** Isaac Bushman's exhibition combines science and magic to make ... Squib art?

I'm using very schematic photographs of wire sculpture that I've made. I'm not combining them to have them clash, but to have them fuse."

Although each of the prints are run through the press multiple times to build up the different images, most also use a variety of different techniques, from lithography to screenprinting.

"I love the layering," Bushman says. "I love seeing how much information is contained in such a minute amount

of space. I'll make a plate, and then react to that, rather than having some grand scheme already planned out, and I just start layering."

Bushman also hopes to explore the relationship between rationality and the creative process in the modern world, and he's keen to see how others will interpret his work.

"I think you can read the title in so many different ways," Bushman relates. "You could read it to mean that

these two things are actually the same thing, and that by science I mean the mode that science uses to come to a conclusion or to document the world. But I also feel that science excludes the things that it can't understand, the supernatural, the next life, or God or what have you."

"In regards to the statement, *Science=Magik*, I'm not pretending to have the answer to why science equals magic," Bushman laughs.



## Jakalope

*Born 4*  
Orange Music Canada  
www.jakalope.net

JOHN KMECH  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

It's nearly impossible to listen to Jakalope without making comparisons to the numerous

heavyweights who've supported the band, like Nine Inch Nails' Trent Reznor and mega-producer Dave Ogilvie. Unfortunately, *Born 4* shows that Jakalope just isn't as talented as its collaborators.

Almost every song on *Born 4* sounds like a single. While Katie B is easily the most intriguing part of the group, she evokes an odd vocal range here, which occasionally makes her sound like Britney Spears or that girl from Aqua. While the female vocals are refreshing to the industrial style, Katie B is unfortunately brought down by the dull, un inventive band supporting her with muddled, generic chainsaw guitars and garden variety synth riffing. Ironically, the album's best moments are the acoustic interludes on "Get It Back" and "Unsaid."

The most disappointing part of the album is that there's no intensity. The album has a watered down feel and is generally forgettable. That said, it's not that *Born 4* is a terrible or unlistenable album, just a thoroughly mediocre one.



## Ima Robot

*Monument to the Masses*  
Virgin Records America  
www.imarobot.com

MATT BARRETT  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

This is the second release from eclectic, electro-pop collaboration Ima Robot, albeit this time sans

the Beck sidemen featured on their debut.

The first track on the album, "Disconnect," and their first single, "Creeps Me Out," are pretty indicative of what you'll find on the rest of the record: jangly rock with all sorts of oddball sounds tossed in at all the right times. In other words, it manages to meld together some of the better aspects of electronica, rock and pop without any major hiccups or conflicts.

However, the album gets ever-so repetitive as it nears its climax. By the time the twelfth track rolls around, the jangle's gotten brassy and the sound effects irritating. Even the lyrics have grown thin. On their own, the songs are dandy, but stretched out over an entire album, they become disappointingly standard and woefully predictable. If you're a fan of jingling electro-pop, then this album is worth a look. And even better, if you're the kind of person that runs around with their mp3 player on shuffle, the album's low points won't have a chance to give you a headache.

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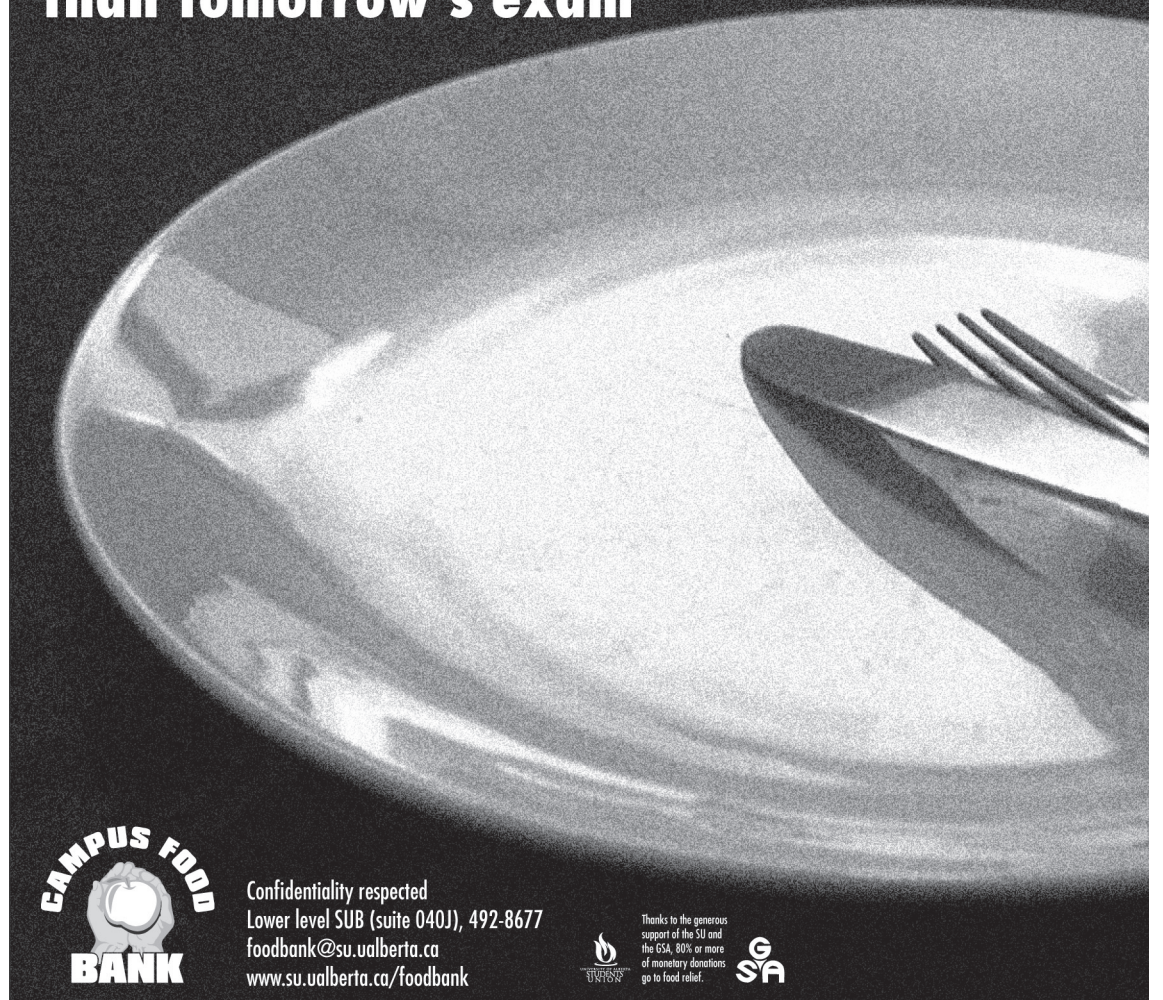
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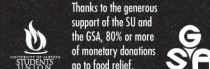
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