

Akimblog



Winnipeg

James Nicholas at Urban Shaman | Erika DeFreitas at Platform | Sheila Spence at the WAG | Lisa Stinner at Gallery 803 | Jennifer Stillwell at Plug In | Tim Schouten at Ken Segal | Rodney LaTourelle at Gallery 1C03

posted by Cliff Eyland - December 2nd, 2008.

The world has changed utterly since my last post in which I mentioned director Guy Maddin's Icelandic premiere. Iceland has since become a top around which the world's financial crisis has turned. Several current Winnipeg shows, all of them scheduled well before the stock market meltdown, can be described as "elegiac," a downturn watchword. Elegiac, meaning sorrowful, may be a common term in art criticism, but, as you will remember, commentator Rex Murphy had to define it for newscaster Peter Mansbridge during CBC's Canadian election-night coverage. Look forward to more elegiac art in the months and perhaps years to come.



Tim Schouten

Tim Schouten's "treaty lands" paintings at **Ken Segal Gallery** continue the artist's long engagement with landscape painting as a form of subtle social commentary. We in Winnipeg are often reminded by work like this that all Canadians are treaty people. Along with the James Nicholas's show at Urban Shaman, I deem this to be the most elegiac work currently in town.