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TERENCE DICK in Toronto 06/05/12

60 Painters | David Trautrimas at Le Gallery
 posted by Terence Dick - June 5th, 2012.



David Trautrimas, *The Blooded*, 2012, birch, acrylic and Japanese linen card

There is something instantly appealing about a miniature. That's why we like finger food, dioramas, and dinky cars. As a model of what could be, miniatures capture our imagination and inspire storytelling. We buy our condos of the future based on pristine maquettes that tower just inches above our heads and promise a happy ever after. **David Trautrimas'** exhibition at **Le Gallery** of mini-fishing huts in a wide variety of exceptionally well-wrought designs is, on the other hand, a model of what could have been. Taking a page from Kim Adams' utopian toy-kit mash-ups and mixing it with Andrea Zittel's proposals for modular housing, he adds a dash of Canadiana through the appropriation of discarded and otherwise failed past national treasures as design formulae. From repurposed DEW-line satellite stations through tributes to the old Brewer's Retail logo and our long-lost paper dollar bill, his tiny fishing huts – like the life-size ones that inspired him – recycle the remnants of the recent past for present day pastimes. The danger for the artist with this sort of work is reducing your final product to the level of the delicate dinky: merely an expensive toy that must remain out of reach of children's hands. Trautrimas' dedication to craft (each hut is seamlessly assembled) wouldn't have been enough to redeem his project; only when it plays into a particularly Canadian historical discourse of innovation and tragicomic loss do these works become something more than playthings.

60 Painters: <http://60painters.com/>

60 Painters continues until June 9.

Le Gallery: <http://le-gallery.ca/>

David Trautrimas: One Empire Wide continues until July 1.



Terence Dick is a freelance writer living in Toronto. His art criticism has appeared in *Canadian Art*, *BorderCrossings*, *Prefix Photo*, *Camera Austria*, *Fuse*, *Mix*, *C Magazine*, *Azure*, and *The Globe and Mail*. He is the editor of Akimblog.