

Ottawa to host big, new photo festival

At least 13 galleries to participate in inaugural event in September

BY PAUL GESSELL

Ottawa has played a crucial role in the world of photography since the Karsh brothers set up shop here early last century.

A succession of top-seeded photo-artists have passed through town since. They include Robert Bourdeau, Lynne Cohen, Evergon, Jeff Thomas and many others.

So, it should come as no surprise that Ottawa, finally, is going to have an annual multi-venue photo festival to give some competition to Toronto's annual springtime photo celebration, Contact, or Montreal's Le Mois de la Photo in the fall.

Ottawa's Festival X will be held from Sept. 20-30. At least 13 venues have signed up for photo exhibitions during that period. More are expected, festival organizers said yesterday.

Both private and public gallery galleries in Ottawa

and Gatineau are participating: the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography, Ottawa Art Gallery, Karsh-Masson Gallery, University of Ottawa visual arts department, Ottawa School of Art, SAW Gallery, Daïmon, Foyer Gallery, IPO Gallery, La Petite Mort Gallery, RA Photo Club, Visual Arts Centre in Orléans and Red Wall Gallery at the School for the Photographic Arts: Ottawa.

Besides exhibitions, there will be educational activities, including workshops, lectures and portfolio review sessions.

The line-ups for most of the exhibitions have not yet been announced. But expect to expand your horizons with everything from traditional black-and-white prints to photo-based conceptual installation art.

At the Ottawa Art Gallery, the exhibition will be *Media Povera*, a six-artist show examining the relationship between



Winnipeg photographer William Eakin will display a body of work called *Ghost Month*, a series of photos of electronics goods made of paper, including Video Camera, above. It will be part of a show at Ottawa Art Gallery.

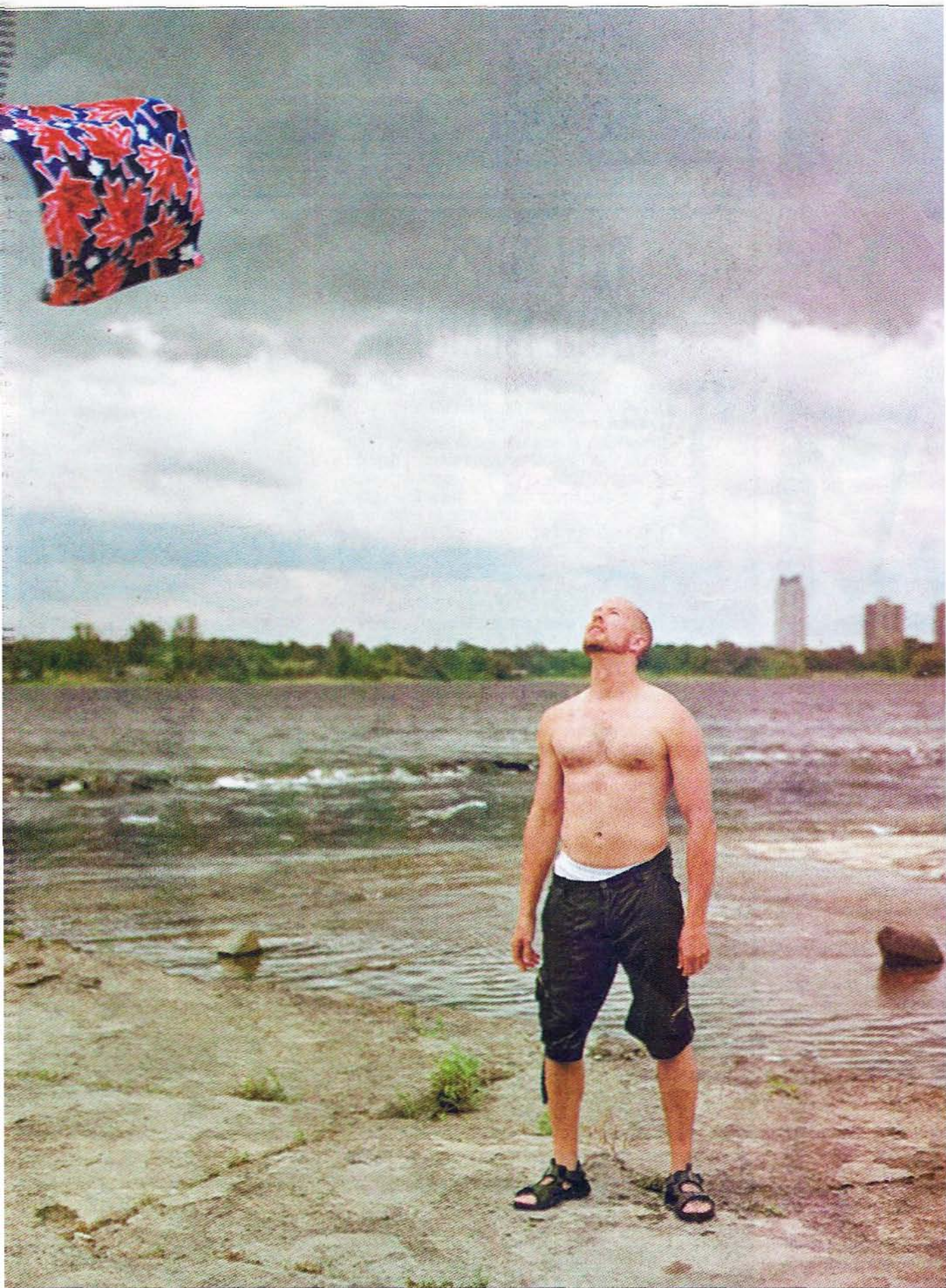
new and old technologies.

One of those six artists will be Winnipeg's William Eakin, who will be showing a body of work called *Ghost Month*. Eakin's photographs are of cameras, televisions and oth-

er electronic goods made of paper. These objects are constructed by Buddhists in Taiwan for burning as religious offerings.

Ottawa photographer Doris Lamontagne will have a solo show at Foyer Gallery and participate in a group show at Red Wall Gallery. Among the participants in a group show at La Petite Mort will be American Jesse Burke, whose images of Robert Bly-style hunters, boozers, brawlers and other rugged, sweaty men have been turning heads across the continent.

FESTIVAL X TO DEBUT OVER 11 DAYS



Photographs by American Jesse Burke, including *O Canada*, above, will be among the many works on exhibit at more than a dozen galleries in Ottawa in September during the inaugural Festival X, an annual photo festival.