

**LEAVE OUT VIOLENCE AND THE CONCORDIA DANS LA RUE PROJECT:  
ARTWORKS BY CANADIAN YOUTH - EXHIBITION**

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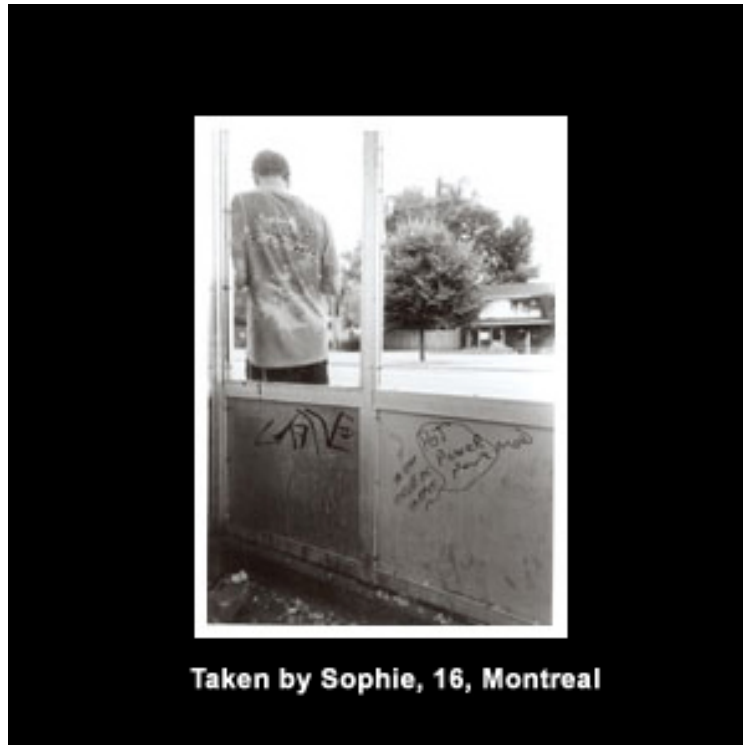
The starting point for this exhibition was Derek Foster's chapter in *Depicting Canada's Children* entitled "Locating Children in the Discourse of Squeegee Kids." Foster explores the disparities between reality and the depiction in the media of squeegee kids in Ontario in the late 1990s. Foster works with four newspaper cartoons by Gareth Lind to illustrate the harsh responses of Ontarian politicians towards squeegee youth. For our virtual exhibition we decided to research two organizations working with a troubled youth in Montreal with a focus on artwork that has been produced by the youth involved. Featured in this exhibition are photography and poems by teenagers from the *Leave Out Violence Organization*, and *Photoshop* montages and CD covers by students from the Concordia *Dans la rue* project. *Leave Out Violence* was founded in 1993 in Montreal by Twinkle Rudberg, and is now the leading Canadian youth non-profit organization for violence prevention and social change. Teenagers from the ages of thirteen to eighteen attend photojournalism classes, where they learn various skills, including how to take pictures and write poems about their violence-related experiences. *Dans la rue*, founded by Father Emmett Johns (Pops) in 1988, is a community-based organization that works with street kids and at-risk youth aged twelve to twenty-five. In 2002, P.K. Langshaw, a professor in the Department of Design & Computation Arts at Concordia University, and Aki Tchitacov, Director of Dans la rue, organized an educational outreach program. At the Tuesday afternoon classes held at Concordia University, design students, under the supervision of Israel Dupuis, receive academic credit for teaching these youth digital literacy skills and assisting them in creating videos, websites and digital collages.



**Anonymous.** Untitled. Photograph. n.d. (Image: <[www.leaveoutviolence.com/english/journalism.htm](http://www.leaveoutviolence.com/english/journalism.htm)>).

This photograph taken by a sixteen year-old teenager from Toronto depicts a suicide attempt by a young girl, who ingested a large amount of medication in the form of pills. This action might have many causes that are defined by the Leave Out Violence youth, such as depression, a negative self-image, bullying, and parents who are fighting or are alcoholics. The girl lies on the floor, with her long black hair covering her face and her right arm over her stomach; while in her left hand she is holding pills capable of killing her. Next to her, the viewer can see a small open bottle of pills. Her body forms a diagonal across the plane of the photograph, creating a dynamic composition that places the viewer close to her body.

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**Sophie.** Untitled. Photograph. n.d. (Image: <[www.leaveoutviolence.com/english/journalism.htm](http://www.leaveoutviolence.com/english/journalism.htm)>).

This photograph, taken by Sophie, a sixteen-year-old teenager from Montreal, depicts a vandalized bus stop, a young boy standing outside, with his back to the viewer, a tree and a building in the background. The viewer can also see graffiti and garbage. The low, right-corner angle from which the photograph was taken suggests claustrophobia and sadness. The image also evokes loneliness, since the wall of the bus separates the girl who took this photograph from the outside world and the boy who is standing on the other side.

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**Fred Tschiszo.** *Image 8.* CD cover. n.d. (Image: <<http://danslarue.concordia.ca/galleries.html>>).

The CD cover displayed here demonstrates two different approaches to photographic manipulation. On the left, the naturalistic image of a graveyard has been altered using a mirror technique to create a meditative representation of symmetry, leaving the viewer to ruminate on its significance. Juxtaposed beside the photographic representation of a cemetery is a lush image of a natural setting. The image on the left shows the dead buried deep below the ground as the sun sets on the land of the living. In contrast, the image on the right depicts a portrait of death above ground, cast in broad daylight, surrounded by verdant emblems of life. On the right the word *Tuizo* is emblazoned on the image. Tuizo is an artist on the website deviantART, a site that works to provide a forum for emerging and established artists to promote, exhibit and share their work.

**Hannah Sutherland**



Unknown artist. *Image 10*. Photo Manipulation. n.d. (Image: <<http://danslarue.concordia.ca/galleries.html>>).

This photo manipulation piece demonstrates some of the aesthetic work being produced by these students. The image plays with representations of the “internal” and “external” by taking a hollow and soulless representation of an x-ray and fusing it with a very charismatic, fleshy image of a woman’s face. The woman’s pink satiny skin radiates off the page while the cold white of her exposed jawbone plays with the shadows of her face. The decision to keep the eyes full of life, without overlaying the empty sockets of a skull behind them, possibly speaks to the artist’s desire to maintain a sense of life within the image. The direct dynamic gaze of the subject produces a sensation of seduction and vitality that counter balances the overarching references to mortality.

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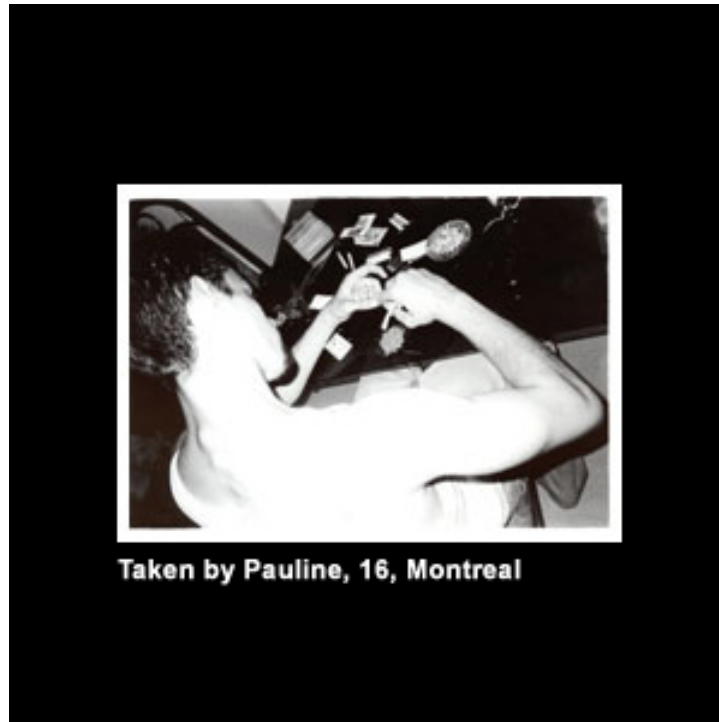
**Taken by Beth, 18, Toronto**

Beth. Untitled. Photograph. n.d. (Image: [www.leaveoutviolence.com/english/journalism.htm](http://www.leaveoutviolence.com/english/journalism.htm)).



**Taken by Kareem, Toronto**

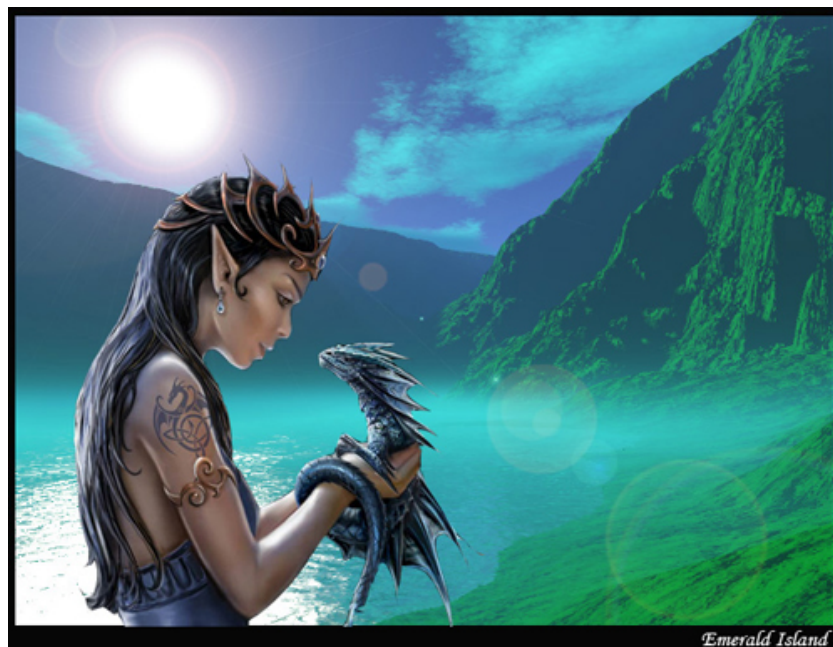
Kareem. Untitled. Photograph. n.d. (Image: [www.leaveoutviolence.com/english/journalism.htm](http://www.leaveoutviolence.com/english/journalism.htm)).



Taken by Pauline, 16, Montreal

Pauline. Untitled. Photograph. n.d.

(Image: <[www.leaveoutviolence.com/english/journalism.htm](http://www.leaveoutviolence.com/english/journalism.htm)>).



Unknown artist. *Image 3*. Photoshop montage. n.d.

(Image: <<http://danslarue.concordia.ca/galleries.html>>).





Unknown artist. *Image 4*. Photoshop montage. n.d.  
 (Image: <<http://danslarue.concordia.ca/galleries.html>>).

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