

# OUTLOOKS

CANADA'S GLBT MAGAZINE

ISSUE 191

CANADA'S GAY  
**TOP MODEL**  
TODD JOHNSTON

**QUEER ACTIVISM**  
**IN CANADA TODAY**

**DAN SAVAGE**  
THE "IT GETS BETTER"  
PROJECT

**THE ART OF**  
**MATHIEU**  
**LACA**

**CARDIF, WHALES**  
**IN HONOR**  
**OF THE ROYAL WEDDING**

Suggested Retail \$5.50 Canada/US



# Framed

Featuring: Mathieu Laca



**M**athieu Laca is one of those artists whose work will make you stand up and take notice -- whether you want to or not.

Most folks look at his work and ask, "What on earth was this guy thinking?" And he is definitely a

bold and daring artist who follows his own, perhaps controversial, vision. His work seems unexplainable and almost dreamlike.

"The unexplainable often creates strong esthetic emotions. This is why I make such a use of it in my works. With so much going on on the canvas, I'm often asked about the narratives of my paintings. Is there a predetermined story line? What's the message? I believe that dreams inform us and spare us at the same time. They're tricky! They speak of inner truths that, for some reason, we can't face directly. So they veil themselves, they wear masks, allowing us to tame them, to live with them without feeling threatened.

"I began to paint seriously at the age of 17. I even thought there was something appealing in a tragic Van Gogh-like destiny. Until very recently, I was completely immersed in the search for my voice. I wanted to find something,

to discover new venues of expression, to develop a unique language. The rest was of no significance. I even once turned down a major show because the works I was supposed to present didn't correspond to where I wanted to go next. They were of my "old manner," so to speak. I didn't want to have success and be admired for something that didn't represent me fully.

"When I start to think about a painting, I always have a very strong feeling about it. The problem is that usually the idea is also very vague. What I do when I sketch is that I dissipate the smoke, I cut the surplus, I add to the dynamics of the composition, etc. To be perfectly clear, I discover the work as I go along. To be an artist, one has to be very curious, I believe. I always want to see where it's leading me! I can't wait -- that's why I do it over and over again. So there's really no predetermined story. Sometimes, the result is a shock. It has nothing to do with the initial jumping-off point. But something unexplainable endures -- this irrepressible feeling, this desire that reveals itself, but isn't given away.

"I want to make paintings that reveal to the viewer something unknown about himself. For that reason, I shake him up sometimes. I stay convinced that most people are sensitive and smart when art is presented to them in a true and honest way, without scholarly bullshit."

However, very clearly, his work is not for the faint of heart.



For more images and information, please visit

[MathieuLaca.com](http://MathieuLaca.com)

Original works are available through Patrick John

Mills Contemporary Fine Art Gallery in Ottawa.

[PatrickJohnMills.ca](http://PatrickJohnMills.ca)

