

Persona Volare with David Acheson, Carlo Cesta, Michael Davey, Reid Diamond, John Dickson, Rebecca Diederichs, Brian Hobbs, Lorna Mills, Lisa Neighbour, Chantal Rousseau, Kate Wilson, and Johannes Zits at 517 College St. Nov 11-25, 2000

You'll have to forgive my thinking that *Persona Volare* was going to be about hockey. You see, I knew some of these artists first as franchise players in the world of shinny hockey (Wednesday evenings at Christie Pits and Saturdays at McCormick arena). And then the Latinate title of the exhibition—something about characters in flight—made me recall Reid Diamond zipping about the rink, Carlo Cesta soaring sweetly up the ice, and Rebecca Diederichs slipping into the right place at the right time. It wasn't clear to me how the show was going to cohere thematically, except by a kind of default—such as the participants' common history in Toronto collectives (mentioned by Jenifer Pappararo in the accompanying catalogue)—so I chose to believe that the cement was going to be friendship. And you know, I still get as much out of that interpretation as I do from considering how the various works combine scientific theory, observation, and experimentation. Because when you talk about "transformative representations" in Toronto, what I think about is the breathless glory of those Wednesday night games under the stars, and how they finally made this frigid city feel a bit warmer.

Germaine Koh