

## Year in Review: The Top 10 Exhibitions of 2009 Across Canada Jan to Dec 2009

by Richard Rhodes



Thomas Kneubühler Electric #6 2009

### 7. Thomas Kneubühler at Projex-Mtl, Montreal

Swiss-born photographer Thomas Kneubühler lives and works in Montreal where he took his master's at Concordia in 2003. In a year when photography took a back seat in galleries to a renewed interest in sculpture and painting, Kneubühler's Electric Mountain series commanded attention by capturing the eerie nighttime illuminations of Quebec ski resorts in photos that were both ironically picturesque and seriously documentary. Like something out of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, his photos show a strange, abandoned recreational universe where the lit slopes seem like sign code directed to the stars. In the midst of its waning surprise as an art form, photography is returning to the merits of original, compelling subject matter. Kneubühler's nocturnes of cold, white artificial illumination tell the tale of a unique kind of landscape that waits for dark to come into its own—both land art for the sports-minded and a meta-image of photography's indebtedness to light.

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<http://www.canadianart.ca/online/features/2009/12/17/top-ten/>

*THE YEAR IN REVIEW: When you see hundreds of strong exhibitions in a 12-month period, pegging the ones that stand out can be a challenge. In this list, Canadian Art's editor checks off his favourite exhibitions of 2009 across the country, pinpointing newly relevant trends and resonant historical references along the way. What makes the cut is a mix of old and new, and an array that highlights feats both curatorial and artistic. Read on for all the details, and the lessons learned.*