

# AVENUE

At the Galleries

TORONTO

## VOODOO SCIENCE AND VORTEX IMAGERY

HYPERTENSION

John Scott

Nicholas Metivier Gallery  
Today to Dec. 31

Nicholas Metivier definitely knows what he's doing, and his inclusion of John Scott on his roster of artists is a testament to the force of one of Toronto's newest contemporary galleries.

Scott is a remarkable man and artist who has been drawing and painting for more than 30 years. The recipient of the first Governor-General's Award for Visual Art in 2002, Scott is probably best known for his *Apocalypse Trans-Am*, a blackened body of a Pontiac Trans-Am entirely scratched with the New Testament book, The Revelation of St. John the Divine, a work in the collection of the National Gallery.

His pictures of hybrid humans, animals and machines are unequalled, with depictions of war and violence, stealth bombers and skulls, Cyclops and mythical characters, and phrases wrapped in frenetic scrawls of charcoal smudges and a footprint or two. These works are politically relevant and deeply beautiful all at once.

Hypertension showcases some of the Scott's favourite characters and themes, such as the giant bunny hybrids that have moved in and out of his work for most of his career. Works like *Mr. Twister*, 2004, *Twister*, 2004 and *Dirty Ones*, 2004 show Scott at his prime.

A famous artist series makes up a bulk of this show with portraits of Basquiat, Joseph Beuys, Grace Jones and Warhol revealing a new side to Scott. Keeping company with the artists are Jane Jacobs, Conrad Black and Attila the Hun, a marvellous combination and nod to his black, tongue-in-cheek humour. Finally, a motorcycle installation sums it up as Scott's favourite bike — a black Suzuki Katana — will fill the front of the gallery and be covered in rose petals.

For Scott, these new works are "voodoo science, incantations, vortex imagery, a quantum bullet." For the rest of us, they are everything we expect and more from an artist who can quote Teilhard de Chardin while drawing a masked bunny man with three heads for nipples. *Julia Dault*

Located at 451 King St. W., Toronto  
416-205-9000

[www.metivierygallery.com](http://www.metivierygallery.com)

Prices range from \$850 to \$19,000



JOHN SCOTT / MR. TWISTER