

The Skin We're In

A New Year means a new exhibit for the Confederation Centre Art Gallery with 'Scar: Alanna Jankov' opening January 8

By G! Staff

Leif Hammarlund self-branded himself in 2008.

Every time he feels the pain of his scars etched into his right forearm, it revives a sense of disillusion and reminds him of the human skin he lives in.

Scars have a way of doing that – reminding us of an experience, a moment in our lives that will remain with us forever. Some are painful reminders of a traumatic event; others are empowering – a permanent mark that represents triumph over adversity. For every scar, there's a story. And every story is as unique as the mark it leaves behind.

In her self-entitled exhibit 'Scar: Alanna Jankov' on display at the Confederation Centre Art Gallery January 8 to March 13, Jankov presents twenty-one emotionally



In one of the pivotal images in her exhibit 'Scar: Alanna Jankov', Leif Hammarlund reveals his self-branding through a smashed windshield. Photography by Alanna Jankov.

charged photographs of scars and the people who bear them, including the scars belonging to Lief Hammarlund.

"This exhibit will explore the interaction between the human spirit and the physical world and the marks left behind," explains the renowned Island photographer. "Scars remind us where we have been; they do not dictate where we are going."

Leave it to Jankov to find the artistry in the everyday. That's what she loves to do. Her innate ability to find and celebrate the uniqueness of the human experience is what sets her apart from the pack. What some of us might see as average or mundane, Jankov sees beauty, intrigue and - most importantly - a story that must be told.

"Alanna's ability to get subjects to open up is a key part of the 'feel' of Alanna's pictures," says Confederation Centre Art Gallery curator Pan Wendt. "She obviously has a special feel for people and can get people to tell stories, to 'show their wounds' as it were. Scars are a very visceral way of showing

one's life story. They are not about rational, composed narrative. They are direct, inescapable; no way you can rationalize them away or lie about them, really."

Because of the graphic nature of the subject matter, all twenty-one images in 'Scar: Alanna Jankov' will be presented in full colour. "Black and white has too much of the feel of the cold objective document on the one hand or the rarefied fine art statement on the other," explains Wendt. Every detail, every nuance of the model is captured, and in true Jankov fashion, in an unconventional manner.

"The pictures feel like a cross between conventional portraiture and something else, something uncanny," says Wendt. "Accentuating this is the fact that in many pictures, the scarred body is presented alongside the face, but almost in a different register, as if the two are not quite fully connected, as if the scarred body is both part of us and separate from who we are."

The official opening of 'Scar: Alanna Jankov' takes place Saturday, January 8 at the Confederation Centre Art Gallery beginning at 7 p.m.



Alanna Jankov.

Photography by Image Factory.