

CANADIANART

Derek Liddington: Fine and Dandies



Derek Liddington *Coup de Grâce* 2010 Detail Courtesy the artist and Clark & Faria

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Emerging Toronto artist Derek Liddington is enraptured with dandies—be they definitive figures such as Oscar Wilde, rock stars such as Roy Orbison and David Bowie, or conceptual-art hooligans such as Chris Burden and Bruce Nauman. His new “theatrical installation” at Clark & Faria, *Coup de Grâce*, forms a trilogy with two works he staged to great acclaim earlier this year at the Power Ball and Nuit Blanche, both of which explored parallels between classical and popular music. As with the Nuit Blanche work, *Coup de Grâce*’s main focus is Bruce Springsteen, whose cultivated-yet-rough-and-tumble image suggests the class conflicts and gender play integral to the dandy’s persona. Also a tribute to Rodney Graham’s *Fantasia for Four Hands*, the performances (four in total during the course of the exhibition) take the form of a duel. Four pianists on two pianos will play the Boss’ “Born to Run” in increasingly sped-up intervals until one of the pairs quits from exhaustion; each pair will be conjoined by wigs and outfitted in “hybrid Dandy-Springsteen costumes.” Also on view are books, record boxes and two drawings of the wigs—an extension of Liddington’s striking graphite renderings, exhibited in 2009, of Bowie’s shifting hairstyles through the years. (55 Mill St bldg 2, Toronto ON)

-“Derek Liddington: Fine and Dandies,” *Canadian Art*, 2010.