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Thursday, April 15, 2004

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## Canadian identity is a fuzzy subject

**Julia Dault**  
National Post  
*April 15, 2004*



**FURTHER**  
Marianne Corless  
eyelevelgallery to May 22

HALIFAX - Who knew that Prince Charles -- he of big ears and little Kingliness -- could be so gripping? Marianne Corless did. Using her trademark approach to portrait-making, the artist has single-handedly overhauled the Prince and his wanting personality. And she did it using animal hide furry animal hide to be exact.

Corless uses recycled fur coats (bought mostly off of eBay) and creates portraits with them. She's imaged great figures too -- Louis Riel, Queens Elizabeth II and Victoria, and Sir John A. MacDonald -- all from skins. The effects are creepily beautiful with the required colour variance coming from beaver, minx and fox furs, among others.

In addition to her portraits, Corless also stitches flags and blankets together. The Canadian flag is, in fact, the lead symbol of Further, her first solo exhibit now touring the country.

With this body of work, Corless is after the ever-elusive subject of Canadian identity, and she's pursuing it using historically weighty materials and personalities. These furry pictures are funny, organic odes to icons that appear and disappear depending on our national neediness.

Corless just might be on to something here: These fuzzy former Queens and beaver-skinned rebels are helping her decipher what it is to be Canadian, and perhaps a little furry revisionism might be good for the rest of us.

Located at 1587 Barrington St., Halifax, 902-425-6412 [www.eyelevelgallery.ca](http://www.eyelevelgallery.ca)

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