

Dewolfe, Stacey, "Art as ignition," MONTREAL MIRROR, 20 June-6 July, 2011.



# ARTSWEEK

**ARTISTAT:** The annual summer issue launch party (3713 St-Laurent, #202) is set from METEOR and a complimentary issue: \$



CULTURAL CUT-OUTS: A work by Villalongo

## Art as ignition

One of the things I have long admired about Jeanie Riddle, the director of Parisian Laundry (3550 St-Antoine W.), is the love she shows to emerging artists. This month, the gallery's annual *Summertime in Paris* exhibition is given a new subtitle—*Kindling*—and a new angle, focusing on five young artists whose work, like kindling, has the power to ignite and excite: **Luc Paradis, Rachel Shaw, William Villalongo, Jaime Angelopoulos** and **Chloé Desjardins**.

That Brooklyn-based Villalongo describes his work as a "conversation between history and art" makes sense when you see his paintings, with their collage-like aesthetic and interplay of cultural references. I was reminded of those felt boards we used to have as kids, with their cut-out characters and architectural details that could be layered into images. This sense of assemblage is also present in the paintings of Paradis, which seem determined to value the parts as much as the whole, and in doing so speak to modernist influences while remaining rooted in the present.

Also, head upstairs to see the gallery owner Nick Tedeschi's newest acquisitions to his personal collection, or downstairs to the bunker where **Rick Leong's** magical land and skylscapes are on view.

—STACEY DEWOLFE