Slideshow: Art gallery openings Dec. 15, 2005, 01:56 PM

Critic Peter Goddard looks at the candid camera pics of Nightshift, one of several art collectives taking part in a show at Shift Gallery Dec. 19. Also: remembering Toronto's Impulse magazine and Cold City Gallery.

"Do you ever get a sense that someone is watching you? Actually that's not the question. I am Peter Goddard, visual arts columnist with the Toronto Star. The real question is: Do you like being watched? I think we do...to a degree. But looking at the shots from the rescu camera video you are seeing, we are used to surveillance. It is part of our lives. We know what not to do in public...unless we want to.

On Monday Dec. 19th shift gallery is hosting a really interesting event. 6 different art collectives will discuss what it means to be a collective. The groups are the Latino Canadian Cultural Association, Seen, TLR Club, Z'otz Collective, a Collection of Foreign Objects and Nightshift.

The shots you are looking at come from the nightshift download from a Rescu camera. The project started in November when nightshift people got together at a traffic median at Yonge Street and Lakeshore Blvd. Collectives do that. Everyone wore an orange toque. Everyone wanted to talk about art. Talking about art is what a collective is all about but I am interested in the images. Some of them will be shown Monday at shift gallery. The pictures say something about where art is going. It is no longer an inside job. Art intrudes into our lives and artists want it to go that way. Yet these pictures really don't break with tradition. These are images about our lives as we drive and so on. Our lives as we live them as much as an eternal landscape showed life in the 19th century..."

Peter Goddard, Visual Arts Columnist, Toronto Star