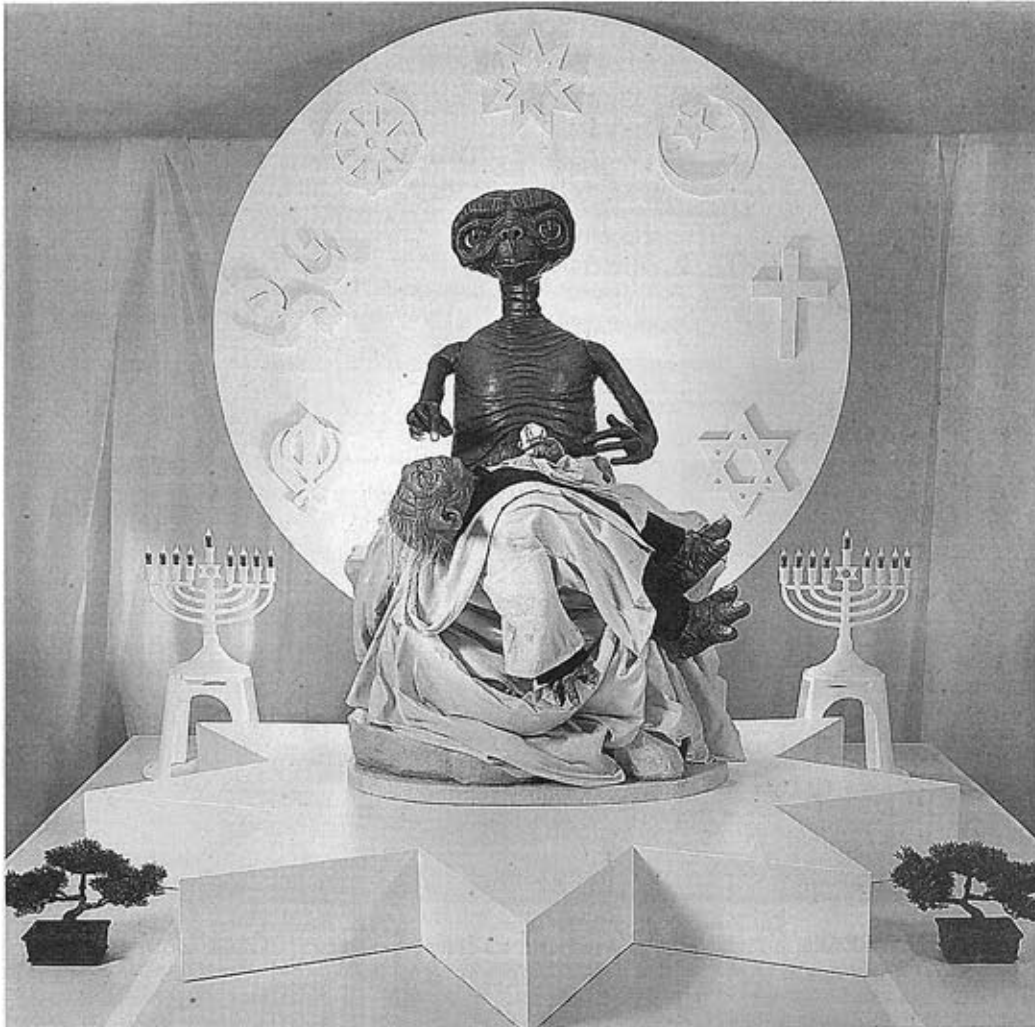


Sayej, Nadja, "Going out, things to do and people to see in T.O. this week: Gallery TPW, Wha Happened?" The Globe and Mail 12 January 2008: M5.

GALLERY TPW » WHA HAPPENED?



The show includes a photo of *piETa*, above, a pop-influenced sculpture made for last year's Nuit Blanche.

Far from mining the arid terrain of art history, the work of Daniel Borins and Jennifer Marman is instead drawn from television-show trivia and blockbuster films. Indeed, "Wha Happened?," a 15-piece show of photos, video and interactive sculptures, is a cleverly crafted collection that uses all shades of pop as its palette.

E.T. and Yoda stand in for Mary and Jesus in *piETa*; meanwhile, on the *Michael Jackson Dance Floor*, a motion-sensitive platform randomly spouts lyrics from Mi-

chael Jackson's 1987 album *Bad*.

The pair, who have been working together since graduating from the Ontario College of Art & Design in 2001, may be better at asking questions than answering them. Asked why a set of hand-crafted passports are pinned up beside an LP, Mr. Borins responds, "Why is a photo of Britney Spears put beside the war in Afghanistan on the cover of the newspaper?"

Clamping the curved question mark around the familiar may be

where the show's premise lies. "By using pop imagery, we're responding to the notion that contemporary art is commonly perceived as inaccessible," he says, but is suddenly cut off by the blurring dance floor – "Beat it! A-hoo!"

"Funny," Mr. Borins ponders, "the work speaks for us."

» Nadja Sayej

» Opening Thursday. Until Feb. 9. Tuesday to Saturday, 12 to 5 p.m. Gallery TPW, 56 Ossington Ave. 416-645-1066. www.gallerytpw.ca