Dubious Views. *Subversive Souvenirs*, online exhibition by Gallery TPW, Toronto, ongoing

David Garneau
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The emerging phenomenon of the virtual exhibition is creating both tremendous possibilities and challenges, particularly for photographers. Virtual venues offer new ways to disseminate and consider pictures, but current formats tend to privilege the curatorial imaginary. Dubious Views houses two online exhibitions produced by Gallery TPW. Subversive Souvenirs presents artists’ alternatives to institutional representations of tourist sites. Subversive Cartographies does the same for mapping. The well-designed bilingual site features two essays that scroll along the left as the corresponding artworks appear on the right. The images can be clicked on for more information, and the essays’ hypertexts lead to definitions and art projects.

The artists are well chosen. Canadian favourites include Mitch Robertson, Janet Cardiff, and Shelly Niro. Jin Me Yoon’s self-portrait with a Lake Louise backdrop plays with the stereotype that Asian features in Banff are coded “tourist” and “foreign” and challenges us to examine our unconscious hierarchical ontologies of Canadian-ness. N.E. Thing Co.’s high-way, marked with signs reading “start viewing” and “end viewing,” comments hilariously on the commodification of landscape.