



ARIANE THÉZÉ, *VISION NOCTURNE II*, 90X120 CM,
2003, PRINT ON CANVAS



ARIANE THÉZÉ, *CORPS ÉTHÉRIQUES NO 7*,
37X46 CM, 2005,
PRINT ON CANVAS

LUMINOUS RADIATIONS

AN EXHILARATING INFRARED AND NIGHT VISION
PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT IN AYLMEY, QUEBEC

visual arts BY JEAN-PHILIPPE DENAULT

L'Imagier is currently exhibiting breathtaking digital prints on canvas in which imagery is culled from the stills of infrared or night-vision videos. These thought-provoking artworks are the product of part-time Ottawa University photography professor Ariane Thézé. Their organic quality resides essentially in the use of body heat to reveal the presence of the artist's sub-

jects, often Thézé herself, in many captivating non-traditional self-portraits.

Art criticism and religion often share similar interpretative lexicons, for a series of anthropological, sociological and historical reasons, which this artist tackles at its very core by formally exploring the phenomenon of the "aura." The tour de force here is to show with images what others struggle to do with words.

While philosopher Walter Benjamin contemplated the potential "disappearance of the aura" emanating from artworks once they are widely reproduced and exhibited, contemporary art critic Dominique Gaudry refers directly to Thézé's work when he says that the artist inverted this very question by "looking for the aura in beings themselves, and inventing the formal techniques that are needed to reveal them to us." Either way, the complex relationship or distinction between art and technique is effectively questioned by Thézé's evocative images.

() ARIANE THÉZÉ

@ L'Imagier

(9 Front St., Gatineau-Aylmer Sector)

Until April 15