
Bertrand Carrière

at the Stephen Bulger Gallery

\$1,800-\$3,200. Until May 6, 1026
Queen St. W., Toronto; 416-504-
8929

This exquisite and inevitably elegiac exhibition by Montreal photographer Bertrand Carrière is called *Caux*. The word characterizes the porous, chalky soil found in the Normandy area of France and, in particular, at the site of the catastrophic Dieppe raid of August 19, 1942, in which 6,000 Allied soldiers (5,000 of them Canadian) were viciously cut down in the course of an ill-planned attempt to wrest a northern European foothold from the German army.

Nine hundred and thirteen Canadians died at Dieppe, and, for Carrière, the beach at Normandy — backed by fortress-like cliffs and littered with over 15,000 abandoned military bunkers, gun emplacements, crumbling seawalls, and so on — is imbued still with endless resonances of regret and anguish. Carrière's softly coloured photographs of the beach and its hoary remnants of the conflict (what a gallery statement eloquently calls "the muted relics of history") are both emotionally tactful and archivally searching.

In 2002, to mark the 60th anniversary of the Dieppe raid, Carrière installed a moving site-specific work on the Normandy beach — a piece called *913*, which involved his positioning 913 photographs of young soldiers on the pebbly beach as stand-ins for those killed in 1942, and witnessing their subsequently being washed out to sea. The resulting 35-minute film is being screened at the gallery each Saturday through the end of May.

The gently beautiful *Caux* photographs were made as a kind of addendum to the film.