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Sexing the sasquatch

Savvy Allyson Mitchell's big hairy lovers mix camp and craft **By KEVEN TEMPLE**

ALLYSON MITCHELL at Paul Petro Contemporary Art (980 Queen West), to October 8. 416-979-7874.
Rating: **NNNNN**

CRAZY ALLYSON MITCHELL FINDS IN Lady Sasquatch the perfect cultural icon to represent her magnificent Deep Lez movement. More than a simple critique of the patriarchal leash on female beauty, her installation presents the sasquatch as the quintessential a/luring large, hairy lady.

You might feel a sense of euphoria when you realize that, as Mitchell puts it, "Oh my god, I want to fuck a sasquatch." At the Paul Petro gallery, she's arranged a small couch, plastic plants and a campfire tableau. Essential oils

scent the air while pseudo-tribal instrumental music with sasquatch moans plays. Using camp and craft, she stunningly appropriates materials associated with domesticated femininity to undermine the very stereotypes they usually reflect and enforce.

Two life-size Lady Sasquatch sculptures covered in fun fur tower over you. Silverback (a dyke culture reference to the older and wiser woman), sporting silver and black fur and an extraordinary mullet, poses in the classic

sasquatch stride. Tawny, with her hands in the air and two rows of hairy teats, knows she's smoking hot.

Seven large wall pieces incorporate more fun fur, found shag and other kitsch fabrics to reinterpret imagery found in 1970s Playboys. Shebacca reclines against a hot purple background, touching herself through tufts of thick red fur, mouth open and eyes closed beneath her heavy monobrow. On a rose print chenille cover, a petite blond goes down on a golden



Allyson Mitchell's Shebacca gives new meaning to the term "fun fur."

brown sasquatch with huge hair and tufted grey eyebrows in I: Ain't Going To Lick Itself. The creature holds her lover's ass as pleasure plays across her muzzle.

For a mere \$30, you can buy a limited-edition airbrushed T-shirt bear-

ing the catchy phrase "Deep Lez" or "Lady Sasquatch." Every shirt is a unique and colourful amalgam of hearts, flags, rainbows and bubbles, backing the cheerful, sexy message. And, yes, they come in all sizes. ©

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