



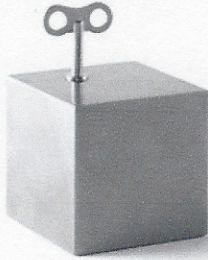
TORONTO

**TERENCE DICK**  
**TOOLKIT AT MKG127**

September 13, 2012

Like 3

One of the first galleries to both land and leave the cultural artery that is Ossington, Michael Klein's **MKG127** has kept its address-derived name but decamped to a location further west, handily across the street from **Jessica Bradley** and steps from the newly relocated **Art Metropole**. To inaugurate this next step in the ongoing gentrification of the city and mark the end of the summer, the gallery pays host to its annual guest-curated group show. This one is called *Toolkit* and was put together by ex-Torontonian, current-Vancouverite **Germaine Koh**.



Ken Nicol, *small box that tics*, 2007, steel

Much like her practice of making the everyday strange, this exciting selection of young artists from around the world all creates objects that absurdly upend our expectations of the vernacular. **Ken Nicol's** deadpan devices are useful in that they have functions, but those uses serve only to establish the uselessness of the work. In high contrast to these highly crafted things are **Michel de Broin's** MacGyvered water-rocket and the low-rent James Bond suitcase in which it rests. In an accompanying video it does what it does with varying degrees of success, but you can't fault the artist for trying. In between these two extremes are more than enough quasi-commodities to, if not help you through the day like a good tool should, recalibrate your experience of how we interact with the built environment. Consider this a pleasant but rigorous refresher before the fall art season starts up in full swing.

**MKG127:** <http://www.mkg127.com/>

Toolkit continues until September 8.



**Terence Dick** is a freelance writer living in Toronto. His art criticism has appeared in *Canadian Art*, *BorderCrossings*, *Prefix Photo*, *Camera Austria*, *Fuse*, *Mix*, *C Magazine*, *Azure*, and *The Globe and Mail*. He is the editor of Akimblog. You can follow his quickie reviews and art news announcements on Twitter [@TerenceDick](https://twitter.com/TerenceDick).

0 comments

[back \[+\]](#)

Comments (newest first) [+click to add comment](#)