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Art Souterrain: 5 must-see works in the land down under

We all know that the term “Underground City” is a bit of a misnomer, but “passageways that connect malls with food courts, metro stops and B-list accessory stores in downtown Montreal” takes too long to say. So instead, we accede to our laziness, sigh and mutter to confused tourists, “sure – take the escalator down and you’ll find the ‘Underground City’” (one can never be too lazy for air quotes.)

Despite our shared contempt for all things grossly overhyped and misnamed, there is something I think you should be aware of going on “down there” (ooh, sounds dirty! Sorry – isn’t.) Montreal’s own **Art Souterrain Festival** has just released a torrent of contemporary art onto surfaces right below street level. The festival aims to make art accessible to a larger public by departing from the traditional exposition spaces.

3. Tom Pnini: **Volcano Demo and Snow Demo**



This is a recipe for “wow”. Take one Israeli artist, a four-storey apartment building, eighteen stagehands and a whole lot ofchutzpah, and what do you get? A giant, man-made volcano doing its volcano thing at Complexe Les Ailes, apparently. While you’re at it, throw in 10,000 Styrofoam balls attached to mini-parachutes and some judicious camera work. You’ll get another fine dish of “oh, ha ha! So cool!” to serve alongside.