

# Night visions



## HEAD IN THE CLOUDS: "Aberfan 1966"

A man wearing a suit sits on a stool. Instead of a head, a pile of bricks rests on his shoulders. In another photograph, a spotlight illuminates a figure treading water, the chain clenched between his teeth attached to a sinking car. These are just two of the images inspired by dreams (or maybe nightmares) found in Elena Willis's exhibition *Between Natures*, now on view at the Darling Foundry (745 Ottawa).

"It is often only in dreams that our collective intuition of what we feel is going to happen is expressed," says Willis. The work "Aberfan 1966" is inspired by dreams of foreboding experienced by the residents of this Welsh mining town before the 1966 disaster when coal waste rushed down a mountain and engulfed a school, killing 144 people—116 of them children.

The photograph "Gopa's Dream" is a premonitory dream told to Buddha in his early life by his wife Gopa. What makes Willis's images so captivating and unsettling is that she recreates each dream and shoots it in the real world, instead of cobbling together the required elements in Photoshop. *Between Natures* runs until Dec. 2, info: (514) 392-1554.

by **CHRISTINE REDFERN**