

GALLERY GOING **GARY MICHAEL DAULT**

Pearl Van Geest at BUSgallery

The handful of big canvases making up Van Geest's new exhibition, *Fool For Love*, are her finest paintings to date. As always, the pictures are kissed all over — up to 100 kisses per painting. Van Geest kisses them all herself. And she must wear her poor lips to the nub in the process. This kid has got to go through an awful lot of lipstick. Not to mention litres of lip balm, after the kissing is done.

Geest's quickening kisses are not just tokens of her affection for her paintings but are, rather, structural kisses. Her kissing constructs patterns within the works, drifting through each picture's space like butterflies fluttering over a meadow. More clearly landscape-like than ever before, with soft pastoral drifts of golden glade and cool green grotto, with the sullen thrusting of dark, rushing trees slicing up through the pastoral bliss, Van Geest's richly hued paintings are now moving, finally, from whimsicality to majesty. Is this because she is kissing them better?

*\$800-\$4,600. Closes tomorrow.
1040 Queen St. W., Toronto;
416-537-8827.*