

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Interactive Sculptures Latest Hot Exhibit at Confed Centre

Adam W. Morrison
Morrison is a journalism student
at Holland College.

An exhibit now on display at the Confederation Centre of the Arts that is showing art is not exclusive to paintings.

Running Jan. 28 till May 13, Cheap Meats Dreams and Acorns showcases the talent of Ken Gregory, which art gallery director Jon Tupper describes as interactive sculptures.

"He is someone not seduced by technology. Many artists are obsessed with using and owning the latest gadgets and software. Ken's approach is to use technology in a very visceral way, mixing old machines like gramophone horns with new things like servo motors, and people respond to that."

Tupper does hope people take away from their visit a learning experience or feel inspired to make machines on their own. As for the importance of appreciating art, especially in this day and age of cutting edge technology, Tupper says those who experience art and culture live longer and healthier lives.

"They feel more in touch with things and events that surround them. They have a deeper understanding of contemporary life and are able to look critically at current events," explained Tupper.

For those wondering where the exhibition's title came from, Gregory says there is no direct meaning behind it.

"I kind of let people decide for themselves what it means. For me, the artwork and the title are 50 per cent of what I do and the remaining 50 per cent comes from the minds of the viewer."

Gregory, who lives in Winnipeg, found an interest in art and mechanics at a young age.

"When I was a kid, I always really creative with everything I was doing. When playing music, I was also making my own amplifiers and working on mechanics," said Gregory.

When he got more into music, Gregory took an interest in electronics and electronic music.

"There was a point when the two crossed and I began doing shows with art galleries instead of bars because the people were more interested in listening to what you were doing. The music and sound was not based on entertaining people or be part of pop music. Instead, it was all experimental and that was interesting not only to me, but a small group of people that tended to be other artists."

Among the pieces on display at the

Confederation Centre, there is an indoor weather vane and what's known as a Hyperball System.

"The weather vane came from an earlier show called Climate Control or How to Predict Weather Using a Pig Spleen. That show is based on weather predicting systems based in folklore and that's where the weather vane comes into play," said Gregory.

"Using a weather vane was the first thing a farmer or anybody interested in what was going to happen with the weather that day could figure out. The rest of that show dealt with the relationship between old and new technology, where as now we can hit the internet and look at what the current conditions are, or we will just look out the window."

The Hyperball System is an audio work, said Gregory.

"I make electronic instruments that are interactive. I perform with them, and other people wanted to play, too. What I did was create an interface that removes my body from the performance," said Gregory.

This was an experiment in interfacing two technologies, but also experimental software writing that deals with the ball system.

"The software writing was different that most people would assume. For instance, in most music sampling systems sold, they continue to use the black and white piano keyboard system where people can still map sound to a certain key. That's what most consider the basic sampling system," said Gregory.

With Gregory's system, no single sound is matched to any ball.

"What happens is that the computer reads the density of motion and the amount of velocity, calculates different values, and finally applies it to the sound set."

Because a lot of the pieces have been on display for a long time, Gregory has been able to observe the response from the public.

"I've gotten lots of positive feedback from people and especially from those who may not be up on art, whether it's interactive or media art. A lot of the pieces on display have a visual hook people can grab on to and that draws their own energy into the system, with just the simple task of pushing a button. Doing so will get people thinking and become part of the artwork," said Gregory.

Those looking for more information can visit

Spring and Summer at Acadia...

Why?

- Transferable credits
- Condensed 3 and 6 week courses on our beautiful campus
- Anywhere, Anytime distance education courses

Courses in:

Art	History
Biology	Interdisciplinary Studies
Business	Kinesiology
Chemistry	Music
Computer Science	Nutrition
Economics	Political Science
Education	Psychology
English	Sociology
French	Spanish
Geology	

Featured Courses and Programs

CHEM 1013 Fundamental Chemistry
KINE 4593 Special Topics: Disability Sport
SOCI 3803 Gay and Lesbian Studies
HIST 2613 History of Medicine
PSYC 3193 Health Psychology
French Proficiency Institute
Math Proficiency Institute

Explore
your possibilities...

For more information:
(902) 585-1434 or 1-800-763-5066
<http://conted.acadiau.ca/9>

ACADIA
UNIVERSITY
Continuing and Distance Education

UPEI Student Union and UPEI Alumni Association 2007 Student Leadership Bursaries

Background

The UPEI Alumni Association and the UPEI Student Union have joined together to establish annual \$600 awards for UPEI students who, through demonstrated leadership and volunteerism, have contributed to the betterment of University life and are committed to enhancing student experiences at UPEI. The award funds are raised at the Annual Friends of UPEI Winter Banquet.

Terms

Awards of \$600 will be awarded to full-time returning students, in good academic standing who demonstrate leadership in university life including, but not limited to, University clubs, Student Union, residence assistants, athletics, tutoring, peer support or other activities. Financial need is a more important consideration than academic results. The number of awards given will be determined by the amount raised. Recipients may be granted the award in more than one year.

Nomination and Application Guidelines

1. A person be nominated by at least two other members of the UPEI community, including a brief statement about why the student deserves the bursary. It would include reasons why the nominee, through leadership and volunteering, demonstrated dedication to the betterment of University life and a commitment to enhancing the student experiences at UPEI, deserves the bursary. The

nominee should be advised by the nominators that his or her name is being put forward, and submit a confidential statement of financial commitments and resources (Registrar's Office Scholarship and Bursary Application Form) before the deadline.

2. Students can apply with a brief essay, no more than one page, outlining their leadership and volunteer experiences as well as a resume, including two on-campus references whom the selection committee may contact. Students must also complete the Registrar's Office Scholarship and Bursary Application Form, including the statement of financial commitments and resources.

Selection

The recipients will be recommended by a special committee of the UPEI Student Union and the UPEI Alumni Association, to the Chair of the UPEI Admissions, Degree and Scholarship Committee for confirmation. The bursaries will be deposited to the student's UPEI account on the last day of April each year.

Funding

The UPEI Alumni Association and the UPEI Student Union will contribute the funds, no later than March of each year.

Deadline

Friday, April 13th, 2006 - 4:00pm

Applications can be dropped off at the Student Union reception desk, 2nd Floor South, W.A. Murphy Student Centre, Monday to Friday 9:00am through 4:00pm.