

Teaching Discoverey Through Art



Photo by Ben Fink

Becki Berthiaume, second to right (facing camera), entertains guests at her senior exhibition on January 27th in the H. Williams Teaching Gallery.

By Alissa Kness

Becki (Johnson) Berthiaume's Senior Art Exhibition is located in the Concordia Art Department from Jan. 27-Feb. 25, 2005. This exhibit features artwork focused on the human body. Berthiaume describes her interest in capturing the human body through art, saying "created in His image and likeness, the human body is

the most beautiful, awe-inspiring mystery of all creation."

In capturing this image, Berthiaume favors oil paints and charcoal, because "you can mix, move, and manipulate them long after they have been applied to the surface."

These mediums allow her to have more control with the images, changing them as many

times as necessary to achieve the desired result.

Using the human body as inspiration for her work allows

Experiencing "Time and Again St. Paul"



Photo by Ben Fink

Midge Bolt's exhibition runs from Jan. 27 to Feb. 25 in the Art Department gallery.

By Alissa Kness

On Jan 27, the Concordia University Art Department welcomed St. Paul artist Midge Bolt. Bolt's exhibit, entitled "Time & Again St. Paul: where images of the past and present meet," is featured in the Concordia Art Gallery Jan. 27 through Feb. 25, 2005. This exhibit features colored pictures of present day St. Paul overlaid with black and white images of historical St. Paul.

Inspired by past and present photos found in "Then and Now" books, Bolt desired to create a project that was more than just a side by side comparison. "I wanted it to be more of an experience. I wanted people to feel that split second, that one breath, that fleeting moment in time."

So, she created a process of printing black and white historical photos on transparent silk. This silk image then hangs in front of the color photograph. Bolt says, "The challenge

Berthiaume to touch each viewer in a personal way. She states, "I love the encounter one is able to have with the human figure and how one connects to something

so familiar as a human face or hand, discover a personality, relate to the emotions of the image as it perhaps reflects themselves or just appreciate the beauty of human life."

Each viewer will be touched differently by this artwork, but because they all understand the subject matter, it will reach them, artists and non-artists alike.

Looking at her artwork, viewers are struck by her portrayals of the human body. Berthiaume adds that she chose the human body because

"each viewer is able to recognize the figure they see." This is very important, because many viewers will be more touched by the artwork if they understand what

the subject matter is about. Berthiaume successfully uses this subject of the human body to reach her viewers. She says, "though the artwork is still a two-dimensional image, it speaks through

numerous visual cues. In a world of cell phones, email, and communication through machines, I find it gratifying to be forced to stop, look, and wonder." Her artwork causes the viewer to do just that.

"Created in His image and likeness, the human body is the most beautiful, awe-inspiring mystery of all creation."

- Becki Berthiaume

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was finding a silk that was sheer enough. I wanted one that would hold the image, but would be sheer enough so that the color image could still be seen through." Printing these historical photos on silk gives them a quality described by many observers as "almost ghostlike."

Bolt arranges these photos in various ways, from wall hangings to shadowboxes and scarves to tunics. One features both the present and historical photo printed on canvas, and hung far enough apart from each other that people can walk through them, or view it from either

side; it can be seen with the historical photo above the present one, or vice versa. In setting it up this way, Bolt desired to show that time is fleeting. This setup "gives the viewer the unique experience of seeing through time from either the past to the present or from the present to the past," she said, adding that "the present isn't the present anymore. This is now the past."

In some of her new photos, the

historical photo only covers part of the present one. An example is the photo of Rachel Hill driving her horse and buggy from the James J. Hill House. The black and white photo only shows Rachel Hill and one corner of the house, and it is on top of a picture of the house at present. By making the historical photo smaller than the current one, Bolt brings more attention to the person in the photo. "The photos with people in them bring more of an emotional reaction..."

In these photos, the change between past and present is not drastic. The images therefore become more about the people, emphasizing just how fleeting each moment is."

In this exhibit, Bolt strives to give the viewer an experience through her photography. She wants the viewer to ponder, "what memories are we leaving behind? Just when we realize that we are in the present, the moment slips into the past and we find ourselves asking, where did the time go? The art of photography captures these moments just before they are gone."

"We find ourselves asking, where did the time go?"

- Midge Bolt