

The Gallery at Victoria Hall Out of the blue, into Westmount

Imagination rules! "L'or du bleu" and blue box materials are the theme of the upcoming exhibit at Victoria Hall. Conceived by the Healthy City's "Live Smart, Live Green" committee, a vernissage will be held at the gallery on Wednesday, October 22 at 6 pm.

Answering a call for entries in early September, 16 Westmount artists (including Alfredo Abeijon, Doudou Boicel, Elizabeth Cameron, and Edmund and Lily Lam) rose to the occasion, responding with talent and humour. So much so that organizer Richard Aylett considers the submissions to be "pure gold."

Magical mysteries

Bruce Roberts' white coat-hanger pigeon or the tissue paper-ribbed bird capture what only can be called flights of fancy. In contrast, Janis Walsh's 3-D cityscape - made of welded coffee cans, grinder blades, etcetera - is monumental at 6'6" tall.

Jennifer Goddard's entry is a rubber band-suspended sculpture. Entitled "The Remains of the Day", the approximate 10'

hanging is composed of rubber bands from the daily newspaper. "Darth Spader", a mounted rusty spade, by Anthony Hobbs is another humorous example of the art of naming fine art.

Drawing on inspiration

And lest we forget the show's inspiration, John Udy's sketch and painting of the blue box is front and centre, illustrating that recyclables are the new, green "still life." Daniela Zekina's illustration of treed garbage bags and numbers suggests a riddle. Sketched in ink, with coloured washes, the whimsical rendering is imagination untethered.

Peter Boyadjieff continues the paper theme with a cutout-cardboard sculpture. Debbie Walsh, on the other hand, creates a mixed-media collage using coloured tissue paper. What is clearly evident is that each solution is as unique as the artist.

Miscellaneous or miniature

In a before-and-after photo, furniture designer Nathalie Guez illustrates that cardboard odds and ends can be trans-


formed into a papier mâché chair. Built to human scale, painted white and sporting the symbol for woman, this is definitely "a chair of her own." Also extending a personal touch, Victoria Hall's Virginia Elliott creates bookmarks from recycled stamps. Mounted on recycled paper and laminated from plastic scrapes, the stamps become a colourful memento for friends and family - an idea that viewers can try.

Another idea that will inspire imitation, Gael Eakin's "Reese Ikle recycle" doll, stands 18" high. This sculpture with egg-carton face, pie-plate hair and can or paper towels limbs, is pure fun. Holding a miniature blue box, constructed from strawberry containers, she sends a friendly reminder - recycle!

Live smart, live green

As food for thought, or ideas for family fun, this exhibit will make you smile. The versatility of solutions and the virtuosity of artists have certainly proved that "one man's junk is indeed another man's art." Let's hope this exhibit is the start of a new Westmount tradition.

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