

Distillations and Eruptions showcases five large installations

Waterloo Region Record

WATERLOO — Nature is a balancing act between chaos and order, randomness and selection.

You might say art is built on the same creative dynamic.

Distillations and Eruptions

, at the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery, features five ceramic installations that embody and enact, encompass and reflect this creative dynamic.

On view through June 16, the featured exhibition shares gallery space with

The Last Glass Show (the next glass show)

, a concurrent exhibition of recent work by members of the Glass Art Association of Canada.

Distillations and Eruptions

Distillations and Eruptions

bridges the 49th parallel with three American artists and two Canadian artists, including a prominent local artist. All are acclaimed, with comprehensive academic credentials and extensive exhibition resumé.

In different ways and in varying degrees, each artist draws inspiration from the natural world of organic and inorganic forms.

The local artist is Waterloo-based Catherine Paleczny, who teaches at St. John's-Kilmarnock private school.

Paleczny's

Thorn

consists of numerous shards of white porcelain mounted on a dark grey board which, in turn, is attached to the wall.

The shards — which suggest various organic objects including teeth, tusks, horns — seem to float like musical notes or birds in lyrical flight.

A smaller installation,

Wait

, consists of nine stoneware objects.

Although abstract, the curvaceous objects are evocatively humanoid, recalling the sculpture of Henry Moore, as they seem to embrace and caress.

The other Canadian artist is British Columbia-based Diana Lynn Thompson.

Being Here

is made from thousands of small porcelain shells and stones that have been meticulously arranged in linked circles placed on a black carpet.

Paradoxically, the work evokes galaxies inhabiting the far reaches of intergalactic space.

The exhibition notes accurately refer to Thompson as combining “scientific methodology” with “a poetic sense of wonder” — an observation that applies equally to the quintet of artists.

The three American artists are Tina Aufiero, Patsy Cox and Priscilla Hollingsworth, who co-curated the exhibition with gallery curator Christian Bernard Singer.

Seattle-based Aufiero calls herself “a self-proclaimed swan lover.” Her mixed-media installation

Thrust

pays elegant tribute to swans.

A flock of stylized, white porcelain swans “swim” on a wooden platform suggesting a pond. Their heads consist of tiny, blue LED lights. A projection of a moving, oblong moon floats on an adjacent wall.

The effect created in a darkened gallery space is quite magical.

Hollingsworth's multimedia installation

Game Pieces/Cellulose and Lignin

consists of three bold and brightly abstract/representational paintings and a dozen large, glazed, terracotta vases that resemble supersized chess pieces.



Diana Lynn Thompson's *Being Here*, made from thousands of small porcelain shells and stones meticulously arranged in linked circles placed on a black carpet.

Cox's

Urban Rebutia

features more than 50,000 small ceramic clusters. The pieces are laid out in three separate bands of colour (red, yellow and blue) that are mixed together at one end.

The installation is a metaphor of the growth and cross-pollination that accompanies urban sprawl, but it might also reflect any form of biodiversity (rebutia refers to clumping cactus).

Last Glass Show (the next glass show)

Curated by Ryan Legassicke,

The Last Glass Show (the next glass show)

not only showcases members' work, it features photographs and videos designed to document glass art as process, as well as product.

A total of 75 artists and designers, both professional and hobbyists, are represented through either objects or images.

The idea behind the exhibition is celebrating the community of Canadian glass artists. Glass art remains very much a collaborative and co-operative undertaking.

The works range from Amanda Parker's

Artifact Crochet

, a delicate glass doily, to Brad Copping's large, mixed-media sculpture

Insulated

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Distillations and Eruptions

Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery

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The Last Glass Show (the next glass show)

Both exhibitions on view through to June 16

Information and gallery hours are available at 519-746-1882 or online at www.theclayandglass.ca .

rreid@therecord.com