

Exhibition gives voice to combined elements

Waterloo Region Record

WATERLOO — Two summer exhibitions at the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery combine earth, fire and light with sound.

The pair of exhibitions — *Marie A. Cote: Of Vessels and Voices* and *Alfred Engerer: Invisible Streams: As Above, So Below* — continues through Sept. 1.

Of Vessels and Voices

Marie A Cote's *Of Vessels and Voices* gives voice to clay vessels through the ambient music of Quebec composer Olivier Girouard and recorded song and voices of throat singers. The installations were produced in the summer of 2011 when Cote visited Inukjuak, Nunavik.

The idea of clay, which is customarily shaped to hold solid objects or water, holding sound is, by turns, fascinating, haunting and elegant.

A viewer might well think of the way many cultures impart spirits to inanimate, organic objects (such as stones), imbuing them with symbolic or totemic significance.

Le puits (The Well) consists of seven white, porcelain vessels (resembling bowls and vases), six of which are placed directly on the floor with one placed on a pedestal.

Girouard's electro-acoustic sound track records natural, everyday, mundane sounds we ignore or take for granted.

Attrape-vents (Wind Catchers) consist of five white, porcelain, horn-shaped objects mounted on maple stands.

The horns, which bring to mind old phonographs and vintage hearing devices, have interior flutes reminiscent of isobaric maps (wind maps). The horns are mounted in front of a long scroll of relief drawing made by applying liquid clay on paper.

Le Courant 4 (The Current) is a green, snake-like, line drawing made of porcelain and mounted on the wall. The drawing is broken up in varying lengths which suggest rhythmic beats.

Combining drawing with sculpture, the work is inspired by natural water systems (streams, creeks, rivers) that wind their way through the landscape.

The exhibition includes a couple of graphics (works on paper) produced through the application of liquid clay which is then allowed to dry.

Clay Drawings consists of 24 works featuring single or multiple bowls of varying shapes and sizes.

Cote completed drawings on a daily basis with liquid clay she found on the shores of Hudson's Bay, in Northern Quebec. Ironically, Inuit peoples have never made or used clay vessels.

Horizon Line consists of a 36-metre long scroll wrapped around the wall of the circular Bierstock Gallery. The white clay on white paper suggests an Arctic horizon in winter. Cote painted a short length of horizon every night.

Invisible Streams

Alfred Engerer's *Invisible Streams: As Above, So Below* was originally commissioned by the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery for presentation at the 2012 *Scotiabank Nuit Blanche* exhibition in Toronto.



This is part of the installation called *Attrape-vents (Wind Catchers)* by Marie Cote at the Clay and Glass Gallery in Waterloo, Friday.



Invisible Streams: As Above, So Below by Alfred Engerer at the Clay and Glass Gallery in Waterloo.



A few of the bowls that make up the installation *Le puits (The Well)* by Marie Cote at the Clay and Glass Gallery in Waterloo.



Le son est rond (The Sound is Round) by Marie Cote at the Clay and Glass Gallery in Waterloo.

More than a million people attended the exhibition of installations over a 12-hour period that commenced at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 29 and continued to sunrise.

The hand-blown, neon installation is suspended from the ceiling of the gallery's circular, front-corner exhibition space.

The work is made of found neon signage (for example, a *Coca-Cola* sign), formed neon shapes (including musical notes, arrow and saxophone) and varying lengths of squiggly, brightly coloured tube lighting (white, red, green, blue, orange, yellow, purple).

As its title suggests, *Invisible Streams: As Above, So Below* illustrates various "unseen energies" such as air currents, underground waterways and "streams of consciousness."

In a local context, the installation refers to the underground portion of Laurel Creek that flows beneath Uptown Waterloo's Civic Square on its way to the Grand River.

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Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery

Marie A. Cote: Of Vessels and Voices

Alfred Engerer: Invisible Streams: As Above, So Below

On view through Sept. 1

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