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Many to One - Youth Ceramic Project

Our young artists deserve a huge congratulations! Come to see their fantastic collaborative artwork!

Images at the bottom of this page.

This new and exciting initiative is an expansion of the gallery's highly successful and developing education program. It is a collaborative project between artist Carol Bradley, gallery educator Sheila McMath and 10-12 Grade 11 students from the Waterloo Regional District School Board and the Waterloo Catholic District School Board. This group of high school students have been especially identified for their special gifts and their strong interest in the arts in the hopes of helping students with portfolio development.

"Many to One" is a large sculptural ceramic work incorporating architecture, engineering and ceramics. It is intended for installation in the front "plaza" of the gallery. While the design of the final form will be determined collaboratively, possible structures include the column, an archway, bench(es), pathway(s) and walls.

A full documentation of the project will give viewers insight into the struggles and benefits of collaborative work. Preliminary sketches, photographs of works in process, documentation of firing and details about final construction will be compiled. Parents, teachers, siblings and friends will all celebrate the unveiling of the artwork and the collaborative efforts of the young artists.



Carol Bradley



Conceptual and aesthetic considerations in this project include:

- question of large scale work situated in the landscape;
- role of public art and consideration of its history;
- responsibility of the artist to the community/audience;
- site and social specificity of an artwork;



Strata (by Carol Bradley)

- comparison of collaborative and individual art practice;
- demands of a long-term, large-scale project.

Students will be introduced to technical considerations such as:

- construction methods suitable for large-scale ceramic works;
- frost hardiness requirements for exterior locations;
- general durability and vandalism concerns for public art;
- foundation and/or footings for installation outside;
- modular construction and assemblage techniques;
- materials testing for strength and surface colour treatment;
- transportation and firing of large works.



Thalia's Curtain (by Carol Bradley)

Project Schedule:

<u>2005</u>	All studio sessions are Saturday afternoon 1 to 4pm
January	15, 22, 29
February	5, 12, 19, 26
March	5, 26
April	2
May	Firing of components and installation
June	Unveiling is tentively scheduled for June.

Progress Report - April 2005

We began work on the “Many to One” Project by investigating the proposed site for the sculpture in front of the gallery and identifying our anticipated audience of gallery visitors, pedestrians and passing traffic. We talked about some of the many forms and functions of art focusing on the role of public art, and considered the technical requirements of a large scale outdoor ceramic work. After much discussion, some debate, and several proposals, a design was agreed upon which met most of the expressed concerns.

The sculpture can be described as an archway that expresses the themes of transformation and diversity. We made some trial pieces to test the clay and glazes, and completed a large full-scale drawing. Using this drawing as our key plan, we are at this time building the sculpture in sections which will be fired separately and assembled into the whole work during the installation process.

This is a large ambitious project that has demanded more time than we predicted and we have extended the original schedule to continue throughout April. We are currently planning the installation process and hope to have the unveiling in June.



Class checking the installation site



Carol Bradley guiding discussion



Participants working on their designs



Group design conference

These two images provide the two side views of the finished installed piece in front of the Gallery.



The Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery wishes to acknowledge the generous support of:



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Waterloo Regional Arts Fund and The Pottery Supply House

Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery

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