

galerie de la ville

centre des arts de dollard centre for the arts
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Press Release

October 26, 2016

Galerie de la Ville presents in November/December “**Repeat Offenders**”, a duo exhibition of mixed media works in two and three dimensions by artists **Monica Brinkman** and **Tina Struthers**. These artists are focused on creating works that re-purpose and re-express human-made objects of all kinds, paying homage to their histories and to their importance as symbols of cultural and social values. They are deeply inspired by the effect natural forces have on these objects, time, for instance, and their inextricable relationship to the natural world as represented by elements taken directly or copied from nature. Fecundity, movement, growth, interrelationship, community, patterns of movement and change, equality, all these concepts are addressed through processes like collage and mosaics, and through the rich surfaces and intricate forms born of these actions.

Monica Brinkman finds her media in the day-to-day materials and objects in our lives. She is especially focused on those objects that people would disregard or discard, amassing collections of such things as stained glass, ceramic tiles, china dishes, broken mirrors, vintage jewelry, buttons and so much more. Using techniques from stained glass and quilting, she carefully cuts and re-forms these tesserae to then collage them on flat or shaped substrates, sometimes in company with objects found in nature. Her resulting mosaics are compelling symbols for her belief in human dignity, equality and community.

Tina Struthers collects textiles, both traditional and synthetic, and uses other materials and techniques proper to clothing and costume assembly in her work, but her visual influences are the movements, forms and transformations of growing things. Like plants in tropical jungles or creatures on crowded coral reefs, her made forms are lush, they seem to evolve and mutate into new life, and the community of new organisms they create expresses itself both as individual sculptures and as structures and installations. Dangerous beauty, the transformative effects of time and the elements and the complex systems created by interdependence and competition are the human themes she explores.

These two artists share a deep connection to their native environments. As a child, **Brinkman** combed beaches and forests in New Brunswick and Ontario, collecting natural things to examine and cherish, and in her family travels was deeply affected by the sometimes painful conditions she saw in other communities. **Struthers** originates in South Africa, both a natural environment teeming with strange and intriguing life on land and in the sea and a culturally complex, sometimes dangerous, always dynamic, diverse society. Emigration and immigration are recurring themes in her work.

Besides an impressive individual practice as visual artists, both Brinkman and Struthers have been deeply implicated in their community, creating public art installations and conducting community art events for people of all ages. They have also participated in group projects, for instance, in the Brain Project of 2016, a public exhibition in various downtown Toronto locations of 100 cast, large-

scale 'brain' forms artists and celebrities were invited to decorate. These are being sold to sponsor organizations or collectors worldwide. Proceeds will support Baycrest Health Sciences, a world leader in brain health and aging.

This exhibition has been co-curated by guest **Diane Collet**.

The **opening reception** for this exhibition will be held on **Sunday, November 20, 2016 from 1 to 3 p.m.** The artist will be present.

The **exhibition** will run from **Saturday, November 19 to Sunday, December 18, 2016**, at Galerie de la Ville, located in the lower level of the Dollard Cultural Centre, at 12001 de Salaberry Boulevard, in Dollard-des-Ormeaux. Opening hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 12 to 4 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays from 2 to 5 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. except during openings. For further information, or to arrange **free guided tours** of this exhibition for your group please call 514-684-1012, extension 298. Please also consult our web site: www.dollardartcentre.com/gallery.

Source: C. Ascher, Director/Curator