

YUKON COLLEGE ARTWORK

Eleven major works of art can now be viewed throughout Yukon College's main campus building. Part of the Yukon Government Art Collection, they are on permanent loan to the college. Commissions for these works were awarded by means of a public competition coordinated by Linda Polyck under the direction of Ruth McCullough, curator of the Territorial Art Gallery.

In April, 1989, Yukon College's Board of Governors announced a Yukon-wide art competition to purchase art for its new main campus in Whitehorse. Prominent indoor sites were identified as possible locations for works of art. \$80,000 was available for these purchases.

A seven-member selection committee was appointed by the Board to review and select artists' proposals specifically designed for the college. Representing a cross-section of Yukon's culture and community interests, the committee members were as follows:

Jeanie Maddison - Yukon College Board of Governors
Joy Wickett - Friends of the Gallery
Pat Martin - Council for Yukon Indians
Randy Merkel - Society of Yukon Artists of Native Ancestry
Ted Harrison - Yukon artist
Marg Render - Member at large
Marion Amriott - Member at large

By the June 15, 1989 deadline, 55 artists had submitted a total of 116 proposals. After careful deliberation, the selection committee chose 11 proposals which would soon be transformed by the artists into permanent works for all to enjoy. The selections were based on originality, skill and variety. Installations began in August of 1989 and concluded in April of 1990. Representing a variety of media, these works can be viewed in the reception and public areas on both levels of the main campus building.

"Fisherman on the Yukon River" by Halin de Repentigny of Dawson City is located on the wall facing the main foyer stairway. Painted in acrylics on canvas board, this impressionistic scene depicts native fishermen both on shore cleaning fish and in a motorboat floating on the Yukon River near Dawson City. It measures 1.86 meters by 7.65 meters (73 1/2" x 265 3/4").

"Fireweed Chandelier" by Thom Rodger of Whitehorse can be seen above the main foyer pit. This abstract creation, made of plexiglass and metal framework, features a central spiral from which grow mobiles of stylized images of fireweed. The overhead skylight and small lights found within the spiral combine with the transparency and shimmer of the colored plexiglass to create a sense of fantasy for the viewer. Thom wishes to acknowledge Don Jacobs as technical wizard and Ed Rodger for assisting him in the installation of this work. Thom wishes to acknowledge Ed Rodger and Don Jacobs (technical wizard) for their help in the installation of this work.

"The Wolf" and the **"The Crow"** by Keith Wolfe Smarch of Whitehorse are found together on the lower level near the print room. The two cedar panels represent Yukon native clan crests. These are carved in relief, painted and then covered with sheets of plexiglass for protection. The designs used are typical of traditional forms seen in Tlingit art. Together the panels measure 3 meters by 1.83 meters (118" x 72").

Rag Rug by Barbara Scheck of Whitehorse is located beside the Yukon Native Education Program area on the lower level. It is a framed wool, cotton, acrylic and silk weaving protected by plexiglass. By her use

of fabric scraps (rags) to make a work of art, Barbara likens the process to an old literary saying - that of "making a silk purse from a sow's ear". The piece measures 1.17 meters by 1.14 meters (66 3/4" x 48 3/4").

"The Land Here" by Alyx Jones of Whitehorse is situated by the student lounge on the lower level. Alyx used stone he found throughout the Yukon to create this relief sculpture. It is a mosaic of fitted stones, cast metal ribbons and stone carvings. He used natural oxides painted on for added colour as the final touch. The work measures 2.44 meters by 6 meters (8' x 19.5'). Alyx wishes to acknowledge Dean Emerick, Kim Blackwell and Michael of the Lake for their assistance in installing this artwork.

"Oasis" is by the late Bob Miller, who died shortly after completing this work. It is located on the lower level on the wall by Shipping and Receiving. For this purely abstract work, Bob employed acrylic paint and modeling paste using the impasto technique. It measures 1.54 meters by 2.75 meters (60 1/2" x 108 1/4").

"In Flight" by Ron Bax of Carcross can be seen from the upper level floor, hanging over the stairwell outside of the cafeteria. The mobile is made up of 50 life size and individually painted Snow Buntings. Molded from gypsum cement, the birds are suspended from an ellipse of Lexan in cluster flight formation. Ron wishes to acknowledge Graham MacDonald for assisting him in the installation of this work.

"Nature in Theory" by Nathalie Parenteau of Whitehorse hangs on the upper level next to the entrance from the staff parking lot. This is a decorative landscape painted in acrylics on stretched canvas. While looking at it, the viewer may note the gradual stylization of the scene as he progresses from left to right of the work. The piece measures 2.47 meters by 8.25 meters (97 1/4" x 289 1/4"). Nathalie wishes to acknowledge the following for their help and encouragement in the production of this work: Lance Scoville, Ray Lee, Pierre Daneau, Evy Loiseau and the Custodians of Yukon College.

"Dog Sled Race " by Maurice Wearmouth of Whitehorse is located on the upper level by the Native Language Centre. It is a cast bronze relief sculpture mounted on a fir background. The winter scene depicted in this work is of an audience standing and looking over a fence at a dog sled race, an event occurring only in the mind's eye. The artwork measures 1.13 meters by .88 meter (97 1/4" x 289 1/4"). Jim Quinsey of Treeline is the carpenter responsible for mounting Maurice's artwork on the wooden background.

"Reflections" by John Ogilvy of Vancouver is located on the upper level in the hallway between Arts and Science and the French Language Centre. This two-panel work, oil paintings on stretched canvas, is designed so that the panels face one another across the hallway. The spectator alternates his point of view by looking from the bush at the city in one painting and conversely by looking from high in the city down at the bush in the other. The artist is asking the question: Where would you rather be? Each panel measures 1.4 meters by 1.99 meters (55 1/4 x 78 1/4").

"Elemental" by Daphne Mennell of Carcross is located on the upper level in the Academic Concourse. Three semi-relief panels of sculpted lacquered metal sheets, papier mache and driftwood summon up an image of shapes and patterns seen on the beach of Carcross in spring. Each panel measures 2.48 meters by 2.02 meters (97 1/2 x 79 1/2"). Daphne wishes to acknowledge her gratitude to Kerry and Dell Fry for the extended use of their basement during the production of this artwork.