

amar installed

by Isabel Granic

Georgia Amar's passion and vitality came through at the opening of her exhibition at Glendon Gallery on October 12. Interested students, as well as devoted fans from Amar's past, were there to share in the artist's pride in her work.

Amar is a native Moroccan who has travelled extensively through France and was educated in Israel and Canada. She is an arts graduate from York but has been zealously working on her artwork since she was 14 years old.

Amar has a unique approach to the creative process. She tries to simplify the perceived object of her work and break it down into basic constituents. Amar uses "light as a medium and means of illumination, spectrum colours, geometry and numerical ratios" to achieve a highly original and charged effect. About the components of light, colour and geometry, Amar says, "[They] seem to create something much beyond themselves, something I can best describe as new archetypes."

She wishes to create these fundamental "new archetypes" as an alternative to the more complex icons of our time.

Amar started working with oil on canvas and eventually progressed to graphics. The symmetrical graphics evident in her silkscreens soon lead her to the innovative third stage of glassworks. The glass art pieces displayed at Glendon were entitled "The Theology of Arithmetic." She specifically focused on the effects of light through and around different forms of glass. She fused these various types and colours of glass together to form standing rectangular structures measuring 71 cm by 183 cm and weighing 190 lbs.

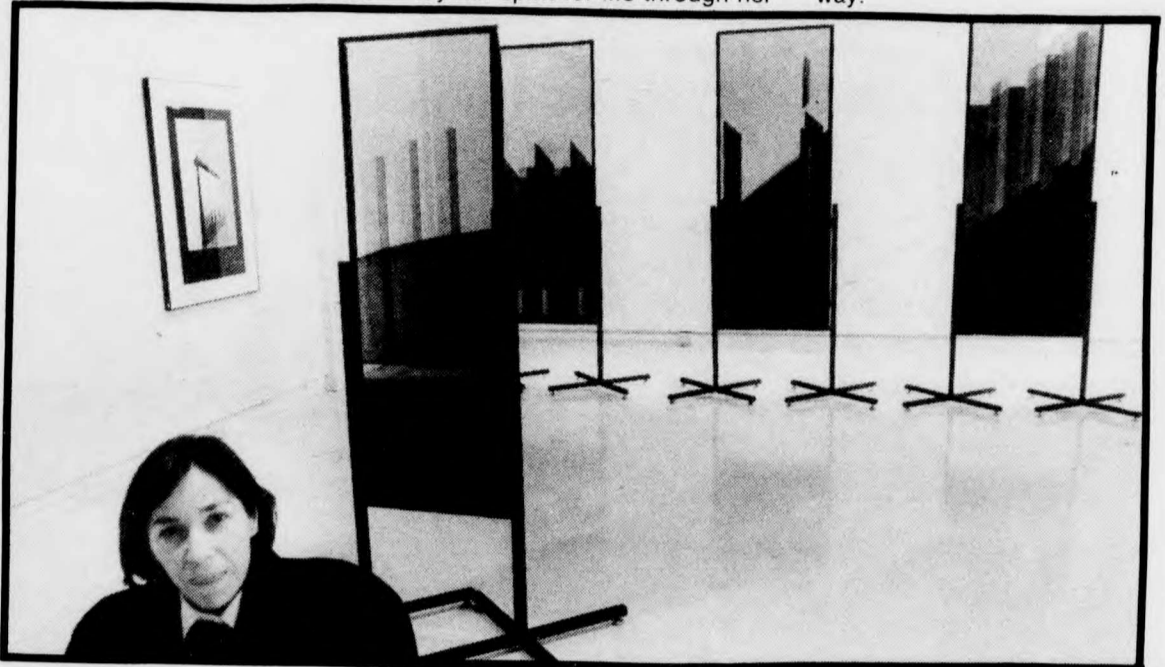
These structures can, and should be, viewed from many different perspectives, allowing the appreciation of not only the front view of the glass, but also the back and sides. These added dimensions to Amar's work allow her audience to further enjoy it. Amar insists that though her work, at first glance, seems to be quite basic, it is "far more complex than [it] appears, even in the simple context of the geometric shapes."

Amar is a unique, warm and unconventional artist who is very eager to share the concepts behind her work. When she speaks about her art, she comes across as an excited child wanting anxiously to share her timeless secret with everyone around her.

York's Ed Parker comments, "It is her sense of timelessness which, when translated to canvas, give her works the feel of fresh modernity."

Amar believes passionately in what she creates and tries to convey her spirit for life through her

canvases and glassworks. She has great ambition and says, "If circumstances allow me, I will be able to perfect [these new simplified symbols] and extend the new archetypes to total environments in a very powerful and meaningful way."



Georgia Amar: "A unique warm and unconventional artist."

Daniel Judd

sarick awards graduate art

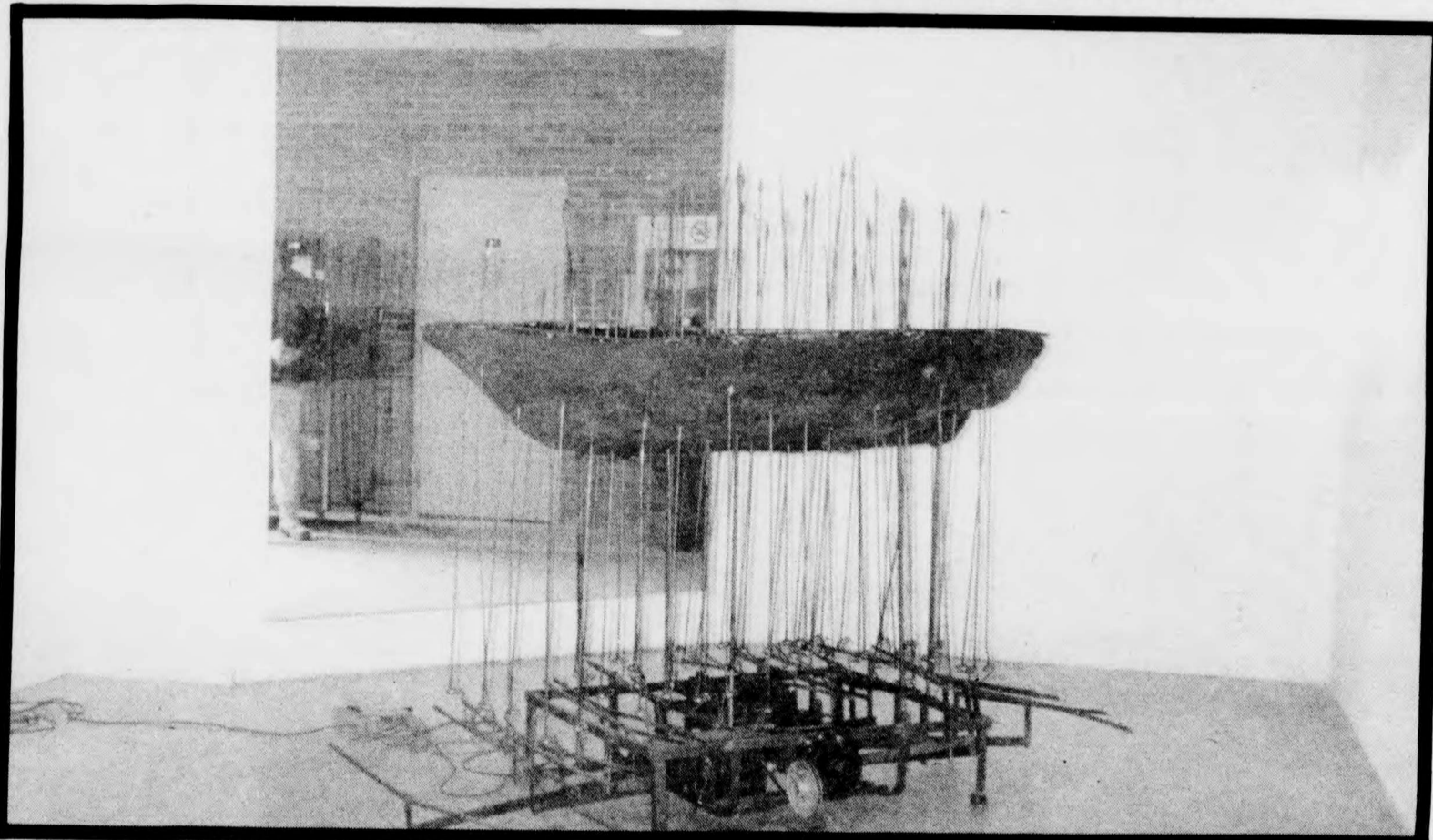
by Mark Moss

This year's exhibition for the annual Samuel Sarick Purchase Award, instituted in 1976, not only contains the best works of this year's group of visual arts graduate students but a retrospective of the works of the past winners in the collection.

Every year, the best thesis work from the visual arts graduate programme is chosen by a committee of four professors. The Sarick Purchase (the exhibition runs until October 27 at the IDA Gallery) is an extremely important award for visual arts students. It is a vital first step, as the artwork is for sale and is priced up to \$1,500. This does much to establish a student artist's credibility and reputation. Three previous winners are currently members of York's visual arts faculty.

Samuel Sarick, a York graduate in economics, is an art dealer. Assistant to the dean of fine arts Brigitte Kleer said, "Mr. Sarick sincerely loves contemporary art and is a major art benefactor." The Sarick family was in attendance at the October 24 presentation as were a number of previous winners.

Look to the next issue of *Excalibur* for a review of the works and a profile of this year's winner.



An example of graduate work on display at the IDA gallery.

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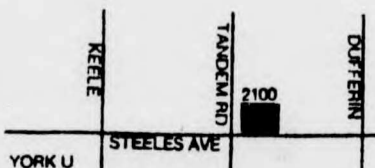
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