

Mural winners announced

By SEAN MATTHEWS

The winners of the Student Art Competition for Mural and Site-Specific Installations (better known as the Mural Contest) were announced on February 22.

Each of the five winners received a financial award to fund construction of their proposals. Their completed works will be displayed by March 1990 in the new Student Centre, the Ross Building, and the McLaughlin Junior Common Room.

Ruta Graveljs, a visual arts graduate student, was awarded \$5,000 to construct her proposal, a sculpture entitled "A Fiction (of Finding) for an Unknown Site." She estimated that her award would cover building expenses for the piece.

Visual arts graduate student Lee Goreas received \$3,000 for his proposal, a book-form painting entitled, "Elegy from east to West in 176 Days."

Sociology student John Veenma was awarded \$2,000 for "Bodyworks." Sandra Gregson and David Cheney, graduate visual arts students, both received \$1,000 for their entries "The Offering," and "Dwelling Place/View."

Those who entered their designs for the new Student Centre are faced with the unique problem of designing a piece without seeing the space.

The title for Ruta's installation makes a comment on this dilemma. She sees her work as fiction — a lie. She submitted a proposal but for her, art should not start with a pre-conceived idea of the final product.

"The process of art directs itself away from intentions. When I get involved with the site and the materials then I'll know what to do," said Graveljs.

The committee sponsoring the Mural Project comprises the Council of York Student Federation (CYSF), the Provost's Office, the Office of Student Affairs, Physical Plant, the Co-Curricular Fund, and the Visual Arts Creative Arts Board.

The jury comprised York visual arts professors. Jack Diamond, architect of the Student Centre, was able to provide the greatest input on the suitability of pieces for the building, said visual arts professor Bruce Parsons.

Parsons, who presented the awards, said that with the winning murals displayed, "the Ross Building is taking on some character — which I didn't think was possible."

Parsons added that the Student Centre will be an ongoing site for the competition. He explained that two or three pieces will be added to the Centre each year for the next few years, and that 25 spaces will eventually be filled by competition winners.

Provost Tom Meininger said he was pleased with this year's entries. "I'm impressed with the talent of York's students," he said. "This is something that has really been working well over the last four years."

What will all these works of art look like? York will have to wait until next March until the final products are displayed. However, the Exhibition of Award-Winning Proposals and Works of Honourable Mention will show until March 8 in the Fine Arts Faculty Lounge.

And for those who ask, "What the heck is that?" there will soon be a catalogue that will include a walking tour.

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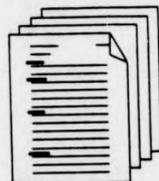
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