

# Fine Arts grad class exhibit at Bank of Montreal

**Interview by Tina Cristini**

Three fourth year B.F.A. students took the initiative last November to begin planning the annual Bachelor of Fine Arts Graduating Class Exhibition.

Joan Dymianiw is president, Brenda Petays is secretary, and Stephanie Armatage is treasurer of the student executive of the 1987 graduating class, which is mounting this exhibition. This year's show is quite special in many ways, as this interview with Joan will demonstrate:

*So you, Brenda, and Stephanie got the ball rolling. What exactly was involved at the beginning?*

We found out that we had to form a committee, have a constitution, register ourselves with the Students' Union. There was a lot of paperwork.

We applied to the Alma Mater Fund and the Students' Union, but we didn't get all the money that we asked for.

*How much money is involved?*

Last year the show cost something in the range of \$3,500 to put on. We don't have that much money this year, but we're hoping to break even with the revenue from the party. We're a little bit short. It's so much more difficult to get funding nowadays.

*Then is the dance after the opening show a fund-raising activity as well as a celebration?*

Yes, it is. It's basically to pay off the bills we have for putting on the show. There will be no profit!

*OK, let's get back to the show. What kinds of works will be exhibited?*

There's just about everything: printmaking, painting, sculpture, industrial design, and graphic design.

*All five disciplines taught in the Art and Design Department?*

That's right. And it will be widely varied in terms of style. It will be a very different show. There's just about everything under the sun: there's multi-media, there are three-dimensional installations, photography, lithography... there's everything.

*How many works in all?*

That is difficult to guess right now. You see, this is the largest show ever. There are 60 artists and well over 200 works. That has been the trickiest thing about this year's show — to find a large enough space that was unoccupied. Luckily we found a space at the Bank of Montreal Building downtown.

*How did you ever manage to get space in the Bank of Montreal Building?*

It all started with the sister of one of our students, Christine Donszelmenn, who works in a legal office in the building. She approached one of the lawyers, Leo Desrochiers, who, in turn, contacted Mr. Kouwenhoven of the Bank of Montreal. He managed to get approval from their head office in Toronto to let us use the whole fourth floor of their building.

*You were very fortunate.*

Yes, we're very grateful to all those who helped us get the space. However, we have had to make some adjustments since there are problems with security when you hold an art show in a bank. To get it open on weekends seemed impossible, but we managed. We had to hire extra security guards that we have to pay ourselves. Also we had to work within the confines of the bank's routine. For instance, we couldn't bring work in all the

time — only between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. — so we had to work very fast.

*How long did it take you to set up?*

Well, we started Tuesday. But because the building has huge windows and this floor is completely open with no walls, we had to transport "walls". I managed to get 93 portable walls or dividers. That was just a nightmare.

I approached the Art Gallery, the Provincial Museum, and other places. But I got the same story — that they didn't have any, that they rented them from a display company.

Eventually, we had to rent some, which cost \$325 for 25 pieces and the rest we borrowed from Ring House Gallery, Alberta Culture, the Visual Communications Department, and from Sculpture here at the univer-

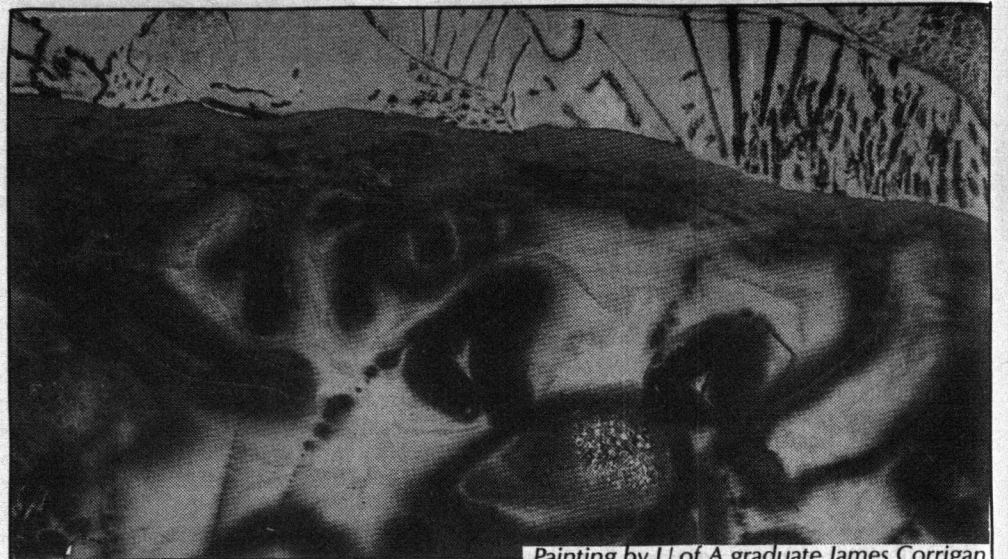
sity. Some of them were in bad shape so we ended up re-painting many of them too.

*So you had to do a lot of extra work?*

Yes. "Murphy's Law" has been running rampant with this project. It's been very difficult, especially with that many student artists involved. We gave each 13 feet of space as a limit, and so one person might contribute one large painting while another might have four small ones.

Wednesday the caravan of vehicles will be transporting all these works out to the bank. It's like "Mission Impossible!"

There will be a gala opening of B.F.A. Art Show Saturday, March 14, 7:00-10:00 p.m., Bank of Montreal Building, downtown (4th Floor).



Painting by U of A graduate James Corrigan

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