

ARTS SECTION

Speckless Sparkles

By ROB MACLEAN

Toronto musician Jane Siberry is definitely on the up and up. Written, composed and co-produced by her, *The Speckless Sky* is a much lushier effort than last year's debut.

Relying heavily on the use of synthesizers and strong melodic vocals the texture of the sound has the same fresh, whimsical quality as before. But it's Siberry's radiant eccentricity that makes this record so appealing. Her material is so rich in ideas that a lyric booklet has been thoughtfully provided to help in exploring her offbeat sensibility.

Her songs are about losing and finding lovers, about songwriting, about being single, shy, talented and female. Yet like Kate Bush, Siberry never makes her femininity the point of her writing. Her lyrics are elliptical, poetic, funny and, more often than not, elusive.

Opening the first side *One More Colour* is among the most accessible tracks on the album. It's a beauti-

fully flowing song full of impressive melody lines and poetic images which attempt to define the "speckless sky." Following this, *Seven Steps to the Wall* is simpler in structure and easily perceived as being about the mystical process of writing with its painful moments of self realization.

Map of the World (Part Two) on



the other side is an elliptic view of the shifting spheres of political ideology characterized by dynamically layered vocals and changing rhythm patterns.

While the songs on *The Speckless Sky* have their charm they are certainly lengthy (running up to eight minutes each) and require considerable attention and interpretation. Yet despite its excesses Jane Siberry's music has a strange attraction and it beckons to be discovered.

Invisible form leads artist to sculpt poetry

By PETER GEORGE

Micheline Montgomery considers Hédi Bouraoui the master of much more than Stong College. This poetic sculptor is celebrating one of York's most tireless scholars with a show of sculptures at Winters Gallery called "Hédi Bouraoui: Once Upon a Word," until December 20.

"There are things," says Montgomery, "that I either don't wish to say in words or don't know how to say." Such is the raison d'être of her multi-media interpretation of Bouraoui. Excepting a few pieces directed at specific works of his poetry her show is founded on the man as a whole.

Born in Tunisia in 1932, Hédi Bouraoui has achieved international recognition in the fields of French, American and comparative literature, language teaching, and, for his growing collection of published poetry. The recognized cultural dualism of Canada provides an acute backdrop for Bouraoui whose writing exploits the flamboyancy of the French language. Some of his words are translated into English, others significantly are left in French only, perhaps a sign of incommensurability between the two languages.

Montgomery says that even Bouraoui himself cannot translate his poetry without a loss of meaning. Her role is translator between arts; from Bouraoui's poetic art to material images. "Ultimately all art forms should blend at the end," she claims, adding quickly, "I always dream of creating something invisible."

The major piece for "Once Upon a Word," entitled "Polyphonic Harmony," is embodied in the medium of wax which seems to suggest transparency and impermanence in its presence. "If I could make a sculpture without boundaries I'd be so happy," she muses. Hédi Bouraoui is

also concerned with boundaries. In fact, his 1979 book of poems is aptly titled "Sans Frontières." In its preface comments, Elizabeth Sebastian cites North American influence on Bouraoui as leading him "to manipulate and bend the French language to his will." Montgomery in her manipulations of wax admits to gardening some artistic ground common to Bouraoui. "I think I know him better than most people do, more for what he doesn't say than he says," she says.

Montgomery, a keen astrologist, has observed Bouraoui to follow some of his pathologically Cancerian criteria. She hopes one day to compile an overview representing great thinkers' attitudes, including Bouraoui's, using prosaic and artistic expression. "I chose Cancerians first because of my difficulty understanding them: Kafka, Tselov, Alexander the Great and Petrarch," she lists as examples. Finding many Cancerians "emotionally lopsided," Montgomery isn't fanatical about astrology's infallibility, but says, "Ideally, we should go beyond astrology, under every sign there is one who can blend the spiritual, the mind and the heart."

Bouraoui's intellectual roamings have included contributions to the Encyclopedia Britannica and literally dozens of books, papers and critical articles. "The man in his eyes is unimportant; if you asked him where his home is he would likely tell you his office," Montgomery says.

Reflecting on her own life and aspirations, Montgomery contrasts herself to Bouraoui's academic diligence. "I may not have something as impressive to show but I sometimes wonder what's more important, having degrees or bringing up three children who will be able to defend themselves well in the world."

A reception on November 30, at 8:00 p.m. at Winters Gallery will include the reading of Hédi Bouraoui's poetry for those interested in transcending the merely tangible.

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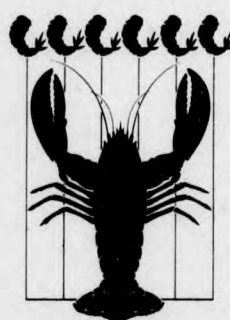
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CALENDAR

Readings/Readings/Readings/Readings
 Writers College Reading Series: Canada Council
 Readings by Norman Levine
 Writers Senior Common Room
 Nov. 26, 5 p.m.
 "Once Upon a Word": Poetry Reading by Hédi Bouraoui
 Winters Art Gallery
 Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m.

CALENDAR

"He was in the world but..." a solo exhibition of sculpture by John McKinnon
 Glendon Gallery
 Until Dec. 19
 Photographs and Poetry by Donald Summerhayes
 Samuel J. Zacks Gallery
 Until Nov. 29
Music/Music/Music/Music/Music
 C/JRT Soloist Series: Oskar Morawetz Retrospective:
 all wind program
 Mac Hall Nov. 27, 12:30 p.m.

CALENDAR

Clouds As Waves, Petals As Rain: Contemporary Chinese Calligraphy, Paintings and Prints. From the Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts, Hangzhou, People's Republic of China
 Art Gallery of York University
 Until Dec. 20
 "Once Upon a Word" Hédi Bouraoui, Master of Stong College: Interpretation by Micheline Montgomery
 Winters College Gallery
 Until Dec. 20

CALENDAR

Galleries/Galleries/Galleries/Galleries
 Inside-Out: Recent works by Heather Rigby and Robyn Budd
 IDA Gallery
 Nov. 25-29
 A Retrospective: Claudia Caverliero
 Calumet College Common Room
 Nov. 25-Dec. 6
 Steve Evangelatos: Recent Works
 Founders College Gallery
 Nov. 25-Dec. 1

