

UTM gallery takes a trip to Port Credit



Curator. Christof Migone, pictured here at a previous show, is curator of The Projects: Port Credit exhibition, which opens on Sunday. *File photo*
Chris Clay

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For the second consecutive year, the curator of Blackwood Gallery at University of Toronto Mississauga is staging a summer exhibition off campus in an attempt to grow contemporary art.

Christof Migone said there's a practical reason behind the move; the university is almost deserted come summertime and he wanted to have an exhibition accessible to the average person. So, the decision was made to host The Projects: Port Credit at the Fram Building Group's condominium showroom, at 141 Lakeshore Rd. E.

It opens with a reception on Sunday from 1-4 p.m. There are works from Mississauga artists Claudio Ghirardo and Sonja Hidas as well as pieces from Adam Bobbette and Seth Porcello, Peter Flemming, Sarah Febraro, Gwen MacGregor, Fedora Romita, Cheryl Rondeau, Derek Sullivan and Jessica Vallentin.

"People tend to flock to Port Credit on a nice summer day and, in a way, we're tailoring (the show) to local residents and people who view Port Credit as a destination," said Migone, whose goal is to have people of all ages and art interests visit. "We're going to go to them, rather than having them come to us."

The exhibition has the artists creating pieces based on a variety of ideas and issues. For example, some responded to the showroom, some to the nature of building development or the Port Credit community while others ventured into topics such as the role art plays in everyday life.

"Some took light-hearted looks while others have a bit more bite," said Migone.

One of the goals of the show is to increase the contemporary art presence in Mississauga. Migone said the city is under-served and that's something he hopes to change with exhibits like The Projects.

"We feel this is something that will grow," said Migone. "We want to build a community and that includes artists. I'm not saying we have to have all Port Credit artists, I think that's a little too narrow, but some local representation adds flavour and a presence that's important."

Rondeau will host Mapping Port Credit: A Bike Tour on Sunday. It starts at 12:30 p.m. and lasts about an hour.

The artist took an "idiosyncratic tour" of Port Credit to inspire her piece for the exhibition, said Migone.

To register, e-mail blackwood.gallery@utoronto.ca.

cclay@mississauga.net

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