



Picturing Textiles

"Art begins with anything, anything can trigger an idea," says textile art student Colleen Brothers as she scans the invitation for the Capilano College Student Graduation show.

Brothers is a first year student in the Textiles program at Capilano College and was one of the students who designed the invitation for her second year colleagues. She is excited about the show and interested in seeing what she'll learn in her second year of studies.

The graduation show has works from both the second year grad students and the third year advanced students. Many of the pieces for the show are inspired by the urban environment and also the natural environment, which makes the beautifully located Seymour Gallery in Deep Cove and appropriate setting with its stunning views of Indian Arm just outside its door.

Many of the students in the program are interested in design, specifically fashion or costume design. They are quick to point out, though, that the program is about an art where the medium just happens to be textile-based. Too many people make the assumption that textile artists are either clothing or cloth designers or crafts people. "That's a perception of our society but it's wrong," laughs Brothers. Another student,

Jen Pleadwell, says, "Textile arts is so huge. It encompasses anything that uses fabric or fibres."

Jiwoon Kim is one student who is interested in taking her knowledge of fashion further by making unique clothing designs that are also works of art. Originally from Korea where she got her diploma in fashion design, Kim came to Canada to advance her education.

Kim's piece is a dress titled *Silk Wave* and consists of a long, softly pleated ankle length overdress in light beige silk. The thigh length underdress is made of darker velvet and has sections of its soft fibres burned out. This process, called *devore*, leaves a gauzy mesh behind. "I was inspired by the flower *Gladiolus*," says Kim of her creation, and indeed, the shimmering natural hues and soft organic form of the dress bring flowers to mind.

Picture this: A few dark red, long, serpentine ropes made of felted wool curling around each other. This piece, titled *Red-Dreaded Scarf* is an example of Jen Pleadwell's work. Her pieces tend to be fun, dynamic, and modern, and she's not afraid to work in any of the mediums available to the textile artist. Another of her works, *Meditations on the Urban Environment*, is composed of hand-made yellow paper that resembles a topographic map. A trio of photo transfers

of urban scenes are centred on the paper and each picture has a light wash of colour and is embellished with embroidery. "I have eclectic tastes," notes Pleadwell, "and my work is a reflection of different things from life." These days Pleadwell is fascinated by how we coexist with the cities and landscapes around us.

Weaving is an integral part of the Textiles program and is amply represented in the show. Small pieces, such as Lia Coleman's *Pink is so Girl* consists of four post-card sized weavings in pink wool. Each weaving contains an image such as a skull and crossbones or a gun.

Another weaving by Barb Newhouse is completely hand-made. She spun the wool, dyed it rich greens, blues, and purples, then wove it into a beautiful zigzag patterned rug. Many of the techniques Newhouse used in her construction are ancient - something that fascinates many of the students.

There's something for everyone at the exhibition: Wall-hangings, fashion, weaving, and mixed media sculptural pieces.

On view at Seymour Art Gallery in Deep Cove until July 6.