

Artist delves into women's stories and memoirs

For more than a decade and a half mixed media artist Dawn White Beatty has been creating rich, hauntingly evocative art works that express her ideas and understanding about the place and contribution of women in our culture.

Her work has been increasingly getting broader recognition. In 1996 her exhibition, Garden Stories, was shown in New York.

Local gallery goers will see a piece from that exhibition as well as some of her most recent body of work when the Whitechurch-Stouffville Public Library's Latham Gallery hosts her current exhibition, Storyville, from this Sunday, July 13 to Sunday, Aug. 17.

Apily for an exhibition at a library gallery, Beatty's work often uses library

quotations and structure as starting points in developing her artistic themes.

The actual works range from large drawings to small intimate "bookworks."

Beatty focuses on how women's histories are remembered and preserved.

The record of women's contributions to and impact on society and culture are often preserved in fragments passed along from one generation to another in stories, memoirs or individual family traditions.

Only rarely have women been given their due, their contributions and perspectives spottily recorded, sometimes lost to history.

The artist explains that she is "interested in the lost magic, the souvenirs, and mnemonic devices that trigger memory, emotion and intuition, and the hints and

suggestions of lost stories to be found in whisps of fables, fairy tales, songs and poems."

Beatty constructs art works that parallel poetry and song in their use of allusion, analogy or metaphor. Rather than making obvious or prosaic connections, she uses images, materials that have personal meaning to her or general connections with women and women's activities.

Collectively these vignettes combine and establish the outlines of her "story."

ENTERTAINMENT

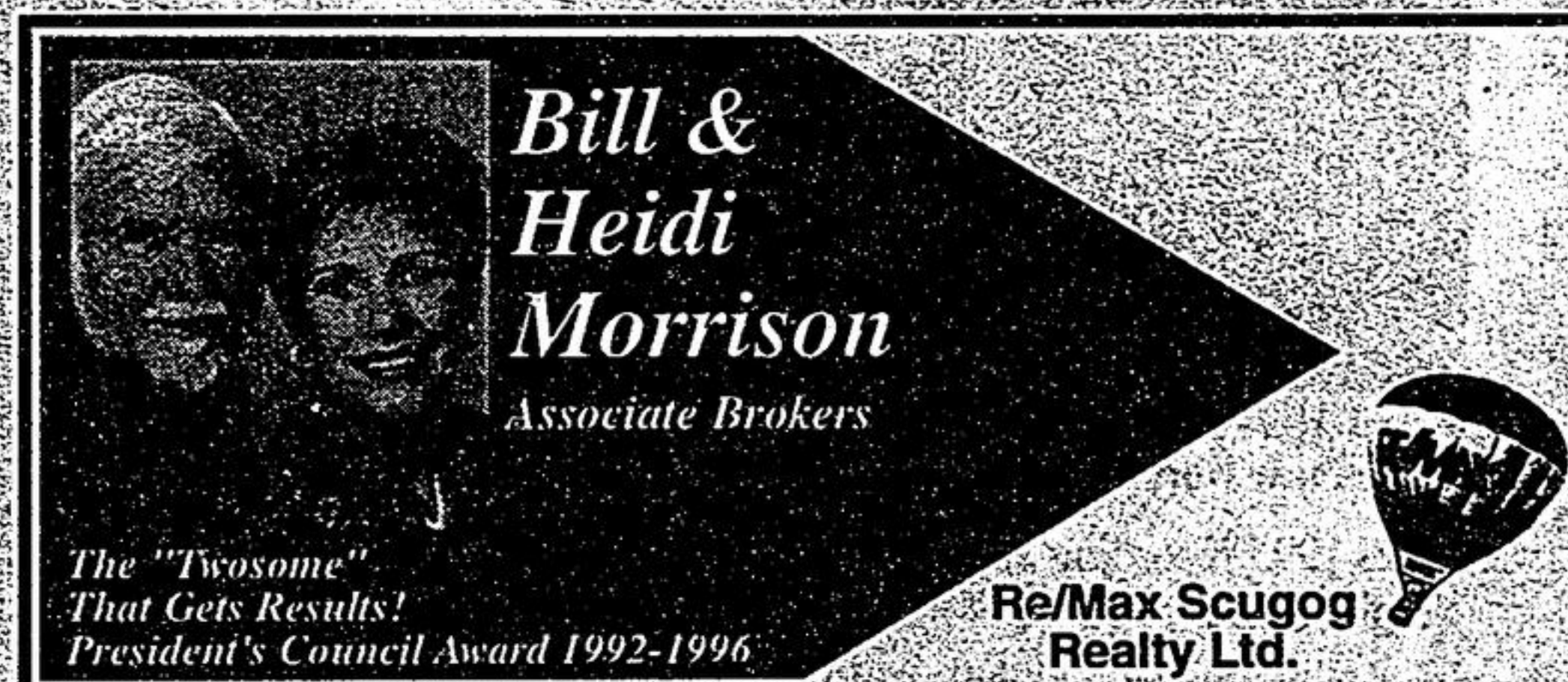
While uncovering women's histories and traditions has required some "re-assembly" and interpretation of hints and fragments, Beatty sees power and pleasure in those traditions, outlooks and events whether they are on an individual or societal level.

For more information contact Christopher Jackson 905-640-2395.

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