

# Female artist exhibits explore their worlds

By Maura Broadhurst  
Special to Stouffville This Month

During the month of August the Latcham Gallery will be presenting solo exhibitions by two different Canadian women artists.

The first exhibition, which continues until August 11, is a collection of work by Montreal-artist Karen Trask, and the second features new work by a young artist from Toronto named Mona Kamal. In both of these exhibitions, the artists are sharing their stories and providing us with a space in which to think about our world and our positions in it.

Karen Trask's exhibition is entitled Touch Wood, and is an investigation into the lives of books, papers, wood and trees. She has installed a full mural of an elm tree that is made up of hundreds of small pieces of handmade paper; she plays with both English and French expressions about wood, trees, paper

and books; she offers us books made out of wood, trees made out of paper, nature growing within a wooden book and more.

On a table she has left a dozen of whimsical books that she has made for visitors to leaf through and enjoy at their leisure. Her delicate and tactile art reveals the subtle relationships among these objects, their individual properties, the stories they tell and the role they play in people's lives. The result is that visitors to the exhibition will feel like they are entering a living story, one that is created from Karen's stories but will also trigger their own memories.

The rest of August will feature three large works by Mona Kamal in an exhibition entitled Foundation. In her artwork Mona is thinking about her cultural identity and how to balance her Canadian upbringing with her Indian heritage. Mona is predominantly a textile artist and it is through the rich Indian

textile tradition that she has learned more about her culture.

In this exhibition she is expanding her work to include textiles and installation work. She will be transforming the entire gallery space to reflect her journey of self-discovery, and her exhibition will encompass her relationship to language and architecture as well as textiles.

Drop by the gallery this month to see how two artists are contemplating their environment in very different ways. Karen is thinking about books and how they relate to the natural environment and Mona is attempting to understand how to relate her family's past with her present.

Mona will be at the gallery on Thursday, August 15 at 7 p.m. when her exhibition opens. Everybody is welcome - we'd love to see you there and you can speak to the artist first-hand.



**Mayor's Golf Tournament raises \$24,000**

At Sleepy Hollow Golf and Country Club, Steve Uren, Martin Desy, Paul Gribbon and Bruce Gribbon consider their game plan during the Mayor's Golf Tournament in July. This year, 416 people participated, raising a record \$24,000 for the Mayor's Youth Fund.

## Antique Car Show

Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum: Antique and Classic Car Show on Aug. 11. Heritage demonstrations, children's activities, entertainment and barbecue. For information call 1-888-290-0337.

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