

Two incredible exhibits on display at Esplanade Art Gallery

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The Esplanade Art Gallery is hosting an opening reception for two incredible exhibits – Diane Landry's *The Defibrillators* and Garry Newton's *Bon a t'irer* on Friday night.

At the reception, visitors will have a chance to enjoy prints, drawings and marquetry of the late Hat artist Garry Newton, meet with Diane Landry, a Quebec City-based artist, and enjoy her modern installations.

Gallery patrons can take a retrospective look at Landry's two-decade-long career of magically transforming everyday objects into multi-media works of art.

"I usually try to not transform too much," said Landry. "But they have a new meaning, a new value."

This particular exhibit showcases more than half-a-dozen interesting works including her 2008 *Radio Silence* projection where Landry took one photograph every minute for 24 hours while standing in the exact same spot in New York City.

Visitors can also experience the breathtaking *Flying School* installation where Landry created a forest of lightly opening and closing umbrellas, with dra-

matic lighting casting star-like shadows on the ceiling. The creature-like creations are connected to makeshift accordions which released timed musical tones causing the room to fill with a melancholy song.

Joanne Marion, curator of art at the Esplanade Art Gallery, said Landry's *The Defibrillators* is very unusual. "It really is beautiful and it's very psychologically charged, I would say – it's quite magical."

"It's very exciting for me to have the opportunity to bring this work to Medicine Hat," the curator noted.

The late Garry Newton's work is another new exhibit visitors will be able to enjoy over the coming summer months at the Esplanade Art Gallery. Since Newton's untimely passing last year, said Marion, displaying his work was a way to celebrate his life.

"Also his estate will be donating some works to our collection, so it's an opportunity to show some of those pieces as well."

The Garry Newton exhibit and the Diane Landry exhibit will be on display at the Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre until Aug. 9. The opening reception for both exhibits starts at 7 p.m. tonight and admission is free.



NEWS PHOTO KIM
BRATVOLD

Quebec City artist Diane Landry stands in front of her *Flying School* installation which is on display at the Esplanade Art Gallery where an opening reception is being held tonight for her work entitled *The Defibrillators* and Garry Newton's collection of prints and drawings titled *Bon a t'irer*.