

Unique art will adorn library

1,000 paintings to grace two-storey feature wall

By Patti Edgar

TWO massive art projects will decorate downtown's revamped Millennium Library when it opens this fall, both reflecting ideas about language and information.

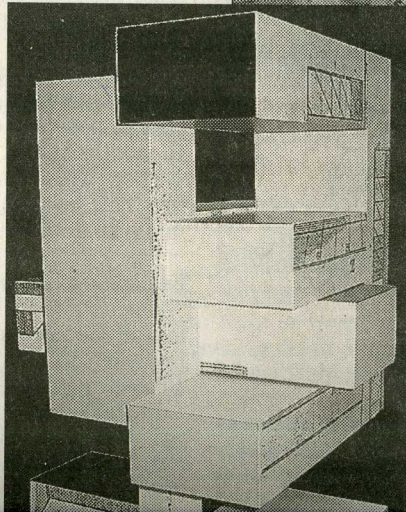
For one project, Winnipegger Cliff Eyland will fill a two-storey feature wall in the lobby with 1,000 paintings the size of the index cards once used to catalogue a library's inventory of books.

"It's this whole mass of information, but you are able to look at each one individually as well, much as you do the information in a library," said Tricia Wasney, manager of the Winnipeg Arts Council's public art program, which is funding both projects.



WAYNE GLOWACKI / WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

Eyland (above) sorts some of the index-card-sized paintings for feature wall. Wade's sculpture (left) is stylized form of the word 'the'.



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Table of Contents but shaped like a table to sit at. It will be inscribed with text gathered from the community through a consultation process.

The rest of the \$500,000 set aside last year will be a spent on a program that pairs up artists with communities to come up with a public art project.

Ottawa may bulk drug exports

Health boss fears shortages in

By Dennis Bue

OTTAWA — Health Minister Allan Rock says he's considering bulk exports of drugs from the U.S. in order to head off shortages in Canada.

Dosanjh said there is a possibility the U.S. Congress will soon pass legislation allowing unlimited pharmaceutical imports from Canada, which would help meet overwhelming demand for medicines.

"We will certainly look at the possibility of bulk exports from the States and see if they can be done," the minister said in a statement yesterday.

"One of the options that we have looked at and fully analyzed is bulk exports. The work is almost complete. We will be taking that to cabinet in the next few weeks, unless of course called."

Dosanjh said it would be a matter of time from a legal perspective before the government could start exporting drugs to the pharmacy.

He noted that professional associations in some provinces have been lobbying for such a program.

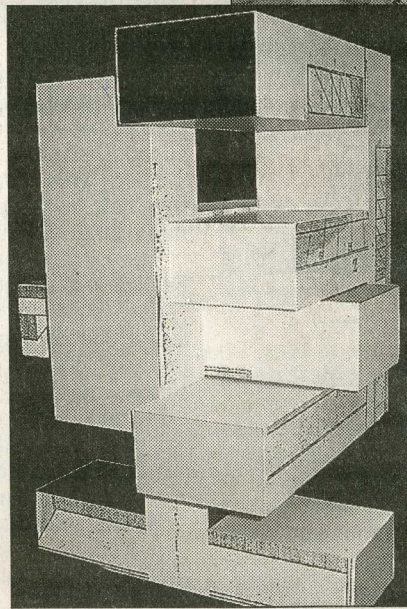
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"It's this whole mass of information, but you are able to look at each one individually as well, much as you do the information in a library," said Tricia Wasney, manager of the Winnipeg Arts Council's public art program, which is funding both projects.

Eyland has been making art the size of index cards for more than 20 years and has shown his work in libraries and art galleries in North America and Europe. With the co-operation of libraries, he has slipped his art inside books, allowing readers who check out the books to decide what to do with them. Often, he said, the books never get checked out and his art stays undiscovered in the library.

Eyland has never done a project like the one planned for the Millennium Library, but expects that from a distance, his 1,000 paintings will look like pixels in a computer image, playing on the idea of digitized information. The paintings were composed while Eyland was in Winnipeg, although not all of them will be instantly recognizable as Winnipeg settings.



"I imagine people will see images in the groupings, but every painting will be individual. I am going to provide binoculars for this, so it will be like bird watching, people can look for a painting," said Eyland.

There will be 30 binocular patrons can borrow from the library and permanent, mounted binoculars similar to the ones at Oak Hammock Marsh.

The paintings will be featured on the Web and on CD-Rom in a manual that can be used like a bird-watching book.

The second project, by Lethbridge, Alta., artist Nicholas Wade, is a three-metre-high sculpture of the word "the," with the letters of the word in different



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Wade has shown in most Canadian cities and several American venues.

"The interesting thing that I see in that work is that 'the' is an incredibly potent word in our language because we use it so much," said Wasney. "It's only three letters, but it's a very profound word in our culture and our language."

The projects were selected from nearly 70 entries by a jury of artists and library and community representatives who wanted works about libraries in our culture. The total budget is \$180,000.

Last year, city councillors set aside \$500,000 for art in public spaces, like parks, streets and city buildings.

In April, the Winnipeg Arts Council announced the first project out of that pot of funding for Wolseley's Vimy Ridge Memorial Park, which has a budget of \$70,000.

Two Winnipeg artists — Eduardo Aquino and Karen Shanski — collaborated on the aluminum sculpture, titled

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The rest of the \$500,000 set aside last year will be spent on a program that pairs up artists with communities to come up with four collaborative projects. Another \$500,000 in city funding was given to the public art program this year, but how that money will be spent hasn't been decided.

Renovations on the library began in February 2004. The \$18-million project includes adding a 30,000-square-foot, fourth-floor reading room with a 22-foot ceiling and replacing the south concrete wall with a 21-metre-high glass wall.

The elevated walkway system will be brought into the library, and the library will move outdoors with three new reading terraces. Its holdings will be increased, and the public will have use of 40 new computer terminals with Internet access.