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Welcome to Korderas' vibrant, miniature worlds

What a scene: Films inspire Great Expectations

By ELISSA BARNARD Arts Reporter
Sat. Mar 7 - 4:46 AM



I Just don't Know What I'm Supposed to Be, an acrylic resin and mixed media artwork by Jessica Korderas, is part of her Great Expectations show of three-dimensional domestic dramas inspired by movies at Gallery Page and Strange, 1869 Granville St., Halifax, through Wednesday.

Jessica Korderas creates exciting miniature worlds of men and women in domestic dramas in highly detailed rooms.

The innovative artist works in blocks of clear resin layering images for a wonderful three-dimensional experience that takes a viewer from clothes tossed on a floor back to a window and out to the buildings next door.

Originally inspired by the film Rear Window, Korderas creates rooms in apartments where ordinary dramas are played out. A lover kisses her boyfriend awake beneath a glass ceiling that gives view to a flying bird and ornate architecture. A girl secretly smokes in the bathroom and is reflected in a mirror. Upstairs, a man who lives in a blue-walled room has walked out onto

his terrace while below him a woman in her pink space with antique furniture has walked through onto her terrace.

While many of the images have a romantic edge, others don't. In the work, I Don't Think I Can Manage, a woman sits at a desk writing while, behind her, a baby in a playpen screams. Clothes are draped on the old radiator.

Being an artist, Korderas is drawn to scenes with artists and writers and, in the marvellously intricate My Little Paintings Can't Mean Anything to Anyone but Me, she depicts an artist painting a self-portrait with a mirror and a crowded living space with angry writing and the drawing of a broken heart on the rear wall.

The resin blocks recall tiny stage sets or TV screens, and the 2007 Mount Allison University fine arts graduate is inspired by film in this series, called Great Expectations.

The rooms depict "scenes from movies that stuck with me," she says. "They are sometimes not even very good movies, but one scene or image stayed with me for some reason.

"Great Expectations is about expectations created by pop culture. Ideas of a place, person, relationship, lifestyle and future are formed at a young age before ever actually experiencing it first hand. This work is about those expectations and how they stand up to reality."

Korderas, originally from Ontario and now living in Halifax, studied drawing, painting, photography and sculpture at Mount Allison. She was introduced to resin as an art material when she worked at the Struts Gallery in Sackville, N.B. A visiting artist showed her how he used layers of resin for his abstract blocks. "I immediately took to it. I loved the medium and how it looked."

Korderas uses up to 12 layers of the resin which she pours on as a liquid over her

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Korderas uses up to 12 layers of the resin, which she pours on as a liquid over the figures and objects drawn on Mylar. The pressure mounts as the piece nears completion and requires perfection.

Korderas fills her illusionary spaces with mirrors and windows, with plants and messy desks and posters on the wall, with dirty clothes and empty food containers. "I love miniature things. I loved Lego when I was a kid and Polly Pockets, they used to be ridiculously tiny, and I loved them."

(ebarnard@herald.ca)

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