

Artists shine on collaboration

Morning Light

Runs now until 7 September
Latitude 53 (10248-106 street)

PAUL BLINOV
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Art is one of the most personal things a person can create; it's something intuitive only to the creator, and putting it on display is like offering an open door into the inner parts of one's life. So what happens when two artists come together in a joint-effort?

With "Morning Light," Tim Rechner and Craig Talbot focus on the intimate process of creating art itself. Although the gallery is currently open for viewing, the exhibit isn't nearly finished—and that's the point. Rechner and Talbot began with four blank walls, and have been working since then on covering all blank space with large drawings, lines of text, coloured scribbles, faces, and slips of paper.

"This particular show we've been planning for over two years now," Talbot explains.

"We've collaborated on different levels [before]," adds Rechner. "Craig lived in Calgary, and I lived in Edmonton, so we sent a lot of drawings back and forth in the mail and saw each other once in a while and just always had respect for each other's work. So we wanted to work on a large-scale installation [together]."

"We respect what each other does and how each other thinks, so we didn't have any problems that way," he continues. "[We just] play off each other and just make art without any rules, any inhibitions, or worries."

In a time-consuming project like this—"It's been like art school again," muses Talbot—life doesn't imitate art; the two become inseparable. With the artists in the gallery almost daily, there are some unexpected guest contributors who are there just as often—Talbot's two children.

"I'm a single parent, so they



STEFFI ROSSKOPF

DADDY DOODLES Both Rechner and Talbot are glad to collaborate with kids.

have been with me every day," he explains. "They've been collaborating with us as well. About five kids have worked on some of these pieces. [One piece] was collaborated on with myself and two of my nieces and nephews. Basically, the kids are here a lot."

Giving a child a pencil and letting him or her run amok in a gallery may not seem like fine art, but according to the artistic duo, at least children won't be inhibited in trying to abide by rules.

"We don't want to filter the kids—like, 'Don't draw on this part; don't draw here; don't spread your toys out'—because this is part of Craig's life and my life," Rechner explains. "We want to go with it instead of fighting it."

Talbot says that working with the kids "speaks to the free, intuitive approach we take to our own art. It meshes well."

With their lives so immersed in "Morning Light," both Rechner and Talbot seem content to let their lives play into their art as much as possible.

On one of the papers posted to the wall hangs a small doodle and the phrase "Make daddy's dreams come true." However, it wasn't written by one of the children, Rechner laughs.

"I just wrote that because we were trying to convince the kids to behave."

Morning Light will be on exhibit until 7 September, when a closing reception will be held in the gallery at 8pm.



MIKE OTTO

PLEASE HAMMER DON'T HURT 'EM The legendary MC Hammer took to the River Cree Casino stage last Sunday as part of its Summer Concert Series. Apparently, the ladies still love Hammer, even if the music industry's forgotten him. —For more pictures from the MC Hammer concert, go to www.thegatewayonline.ca.

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