

Bringing Research to LIFE

In brief

ResearchLIFE

The summer 2011 issue of *ResearchLIFE* is now available. The sixth issue includes features on satellite technologies, the new Indigenous Governance Community Based Research Space and bringing agricultural research full circle.

Also in this issue: CFI president and CEO Gilles Patry provides insights on innovation and investing in people. Look for the new issue in your mailbox or stands around campus.

2011 Creative Works Grant program recipients:

Elizabeth Roy (\$2,500.00)
School of Art
Smashing Dishes

Lancelot Coar (\$2,500.00)
Faculty of Architecture
The design and creation of a modelling system to study phase-changing structures made from fibreglass, fabric, and wax

Steven Nunoda (\$2,500.00)
School of Art
Ghostown: Tarpaper Shacks

David McMillan (\$2,500.00)
School of Art
Photographing in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone

Eduardo Aquino (\$2,500.00)
Faculty of Architecture
Site-specific installation at RAW Gallery of Architecture and Design [ongoing research on "beachscape"]

Lisa Landrum (\$2,500.00)
Faculty of Architecture
Retrospective exhibition of "group costumes", fabricated and performed in civic parades (1997-2011)

Upcoming Event

Café Scientifique

Food: The Answer to What Ails You?

Tuesday, September 13, 2011
at 7:00 p.m.

McNally Robinson Booksellers
1120 Grant Avenue

To assist us in planning seating,
RSVP to 474-9020

For more information, or to view the 2011/2011 Café Scientifique lineup, please visit:
umanitoba.ca/research/cafe_scientifique.html

Art meets public

BY MELNI GHATTORA

It's hard to imagine that one red glazed brick will soon create an impact in public space. Like a piece to a very large puzzle, the structural brick will join 24 thousand other bricks in 60 different colours to create pixel-like patterns based on images taken in the neighbourhood and from the Big on Bloor festival in Toronto, Ontario.

"We don't want to attach an artwork into the lobby or the windows of the station, instead the entire structure is the artwork," says Eduardo Aquino of Something Happens Here, a public art project for the Dufferin station, a subway station that is currently undergoing upgrades and modernization under the Toronto Transit Commission's Station Modernization program.

Aquino, an associate professor in the Faculty of Architecture, and colleagues Karen Shanski and Ralph Glor, won the national competition, beating out public artists from across Canada. The three stage process required the trio to submit their qualifications, from there they were shortlisted, and then asked to produce models and drawings and submit a concept.

While the single brick that sits on Aquino's shelf will become public art within the fiber of the urban community in Toronto, Winnipeggers also have something to look forward to.

Former public art consultant for the Winnipeg Arts Council (WAC) Public Art Program, Aquino was invited by the organization to compete in a local project that will see one of our heavily traversed bridges refurbished.

"This competition was an invited



Submitted Photo

Plage, conceived for the Festival Ephemeral Gardens in Quebec City, is a proposed dialogue between landscapes (beach-prairie-Quebec landscape).

one due to the complexities of the project. As artists we were required to work within the context of a big piece of infrastructure in collaboration with engineers and city officials, and at the same time to have an understanding of the architecture, and to be able to deliver an artwork specifically for a piece of infrastructure," says Aquino.

spmb (São Paulo-Manitoba), a research-based studio formed by the partnership of Aquino and, Shanski (in collaboration with Glor), will bring art into public space through their collaborative work on the Osborne Street bridge.



Submitted Photo

Public artists Karen Shanski and Eduardo Aquino have generated more than 50 public art projects over the past decade, including a collaboration with the City of Winnipeg to incorporate public art into the rehabilitation of the Osborne Street bridge.

The rehabilitation project, expected to wrap in October 2012, will "provide a bridge that truly fits with the two very distinct neighbourhoods on the north and south side of the Assiniboine River. Special handrails with accent lighting together with a patterned sidewalk on the bridge will celebrate local neighbourhood history, locations, events, and other local heritage elements," according to the City of Winnipeg, Public Works web site.

Later this fall, Aquino is set to launch an exhibit at the RAW gallery thanks to a University of Manitoba Creative Works Grant from the office of the vice-president (research). Beachscape, a research project that started 12 years ago and the subject of his PhD project at the University of São Paulo, is inspired by the experiences of Copacabana, a popular beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

"Beachscape is the centre concept of the project. What happens with our practice is that we fully integrate the projects into our research process," explains Aquino. "Typically in our practice a research project will generate other projects and for us Beachscape has informed many of our projects right now."

Through his research Aquino explores what constitutes a really good public space.

"That is why we always have the [beach] picture there," says Aquino, as he points to an enlarged aerial shot of Copacabana, taken from a Brazilian magazine that dates back to the '70s.

"It's very compartmentalized, but what we understand about the complexity of the beach itself, is that there is an order, and within that order you have a complexity of programs, people, activities and perceptions of space, so you tend to sit a lot closer at the beach, or you tend to orient yourself differently in that space," explains Shanski.

Adding "our research is about abstracting away from the sand, and analyze the principals of what sets up a

very good complex public space within the city. The RAW project will be a very interesting one for us as we've never done Beachscape in a gallery space."

For Aquino, creating art in public space "is a different way of working as an artist. It's not like I can do a sculpture in a studio and then I can just show it in a gallery. There are many constituencies of public space that have an implication in the process. We are



Submitted Photo

HAHA! a garden project for the 10th International Garden Festival held at Les Jardins de Métis, Redford Gardens, Métis, Québec.

always communicating with people, explaining the work, communicating our creative process."

He feels being a contemporary artist is a condition: "Whatever you do in public space you raise questions, you provoke people in different ways, so we have to be ready to engage the people and to respond all the time."

To learn more about the work of spmb, visit www.spmb.ca.

umanitoba.ca/research

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