

Viewers create artistic sounds

ART REVIEW

- Office 2000
- by Thomas Kneubuhler
- Platform Gallery
- 121-100 Arthur St.
- To Oct. 28



Lorne Roberts

Between Sounds and Abstractions, by Sabin Hudon and Catherine Béchard
aceartinc, 290 McDermot Ave.
To Nov. 12

As part of the Send + Receive Festival, a celebration of sound-related art forms, aceart presents a pair of unusual and interesting installations by two Quebecois artists.

Sabin Hudon and Catherine Béchard have collaborated on projects together for several years, with these latest representing their ongoing attempts to make interactive works, in which the art, while highly mechanical in nature, has the actions of the viewer as its basis.

According to Hudon, who is also a professional musician, the idea is to give the works an organic quality, even though they rely on sensitive mechanical instruments. This means that, in this case, the sounds generated by the piece are in response to the viewer's movements and position in the gallery.

In one of the works here, two large brooms slowly swish back and forth across a pile of crumpled newspapers, and the sound is amplified through the gallery. In the other work, the childish tin-can telephone is used as a starting point to create sound. The viewer's movements cause a pulley to slide across string between two tin pails, the sound again changing in response to the viewer and amplified through the gallery.

As with Kneubuhler's show, it is the contrasts here that make this work so interesting. The highly mechanized

devices are not the art so much as the sound is — sound created by the viewers themselves as they move through the gallery. In effect, the technology is useless and dead without the human presence to bring it to life.

Colour in Paradise, by Milos Milidrag and Ewa Tarsia
<Site> Gallery, 55 Arthur St.
To Oct. 29

At Site Gallery, two locals are currently exhibiting their distinctive work, in one of Site's last shows before it closes its doors for good.

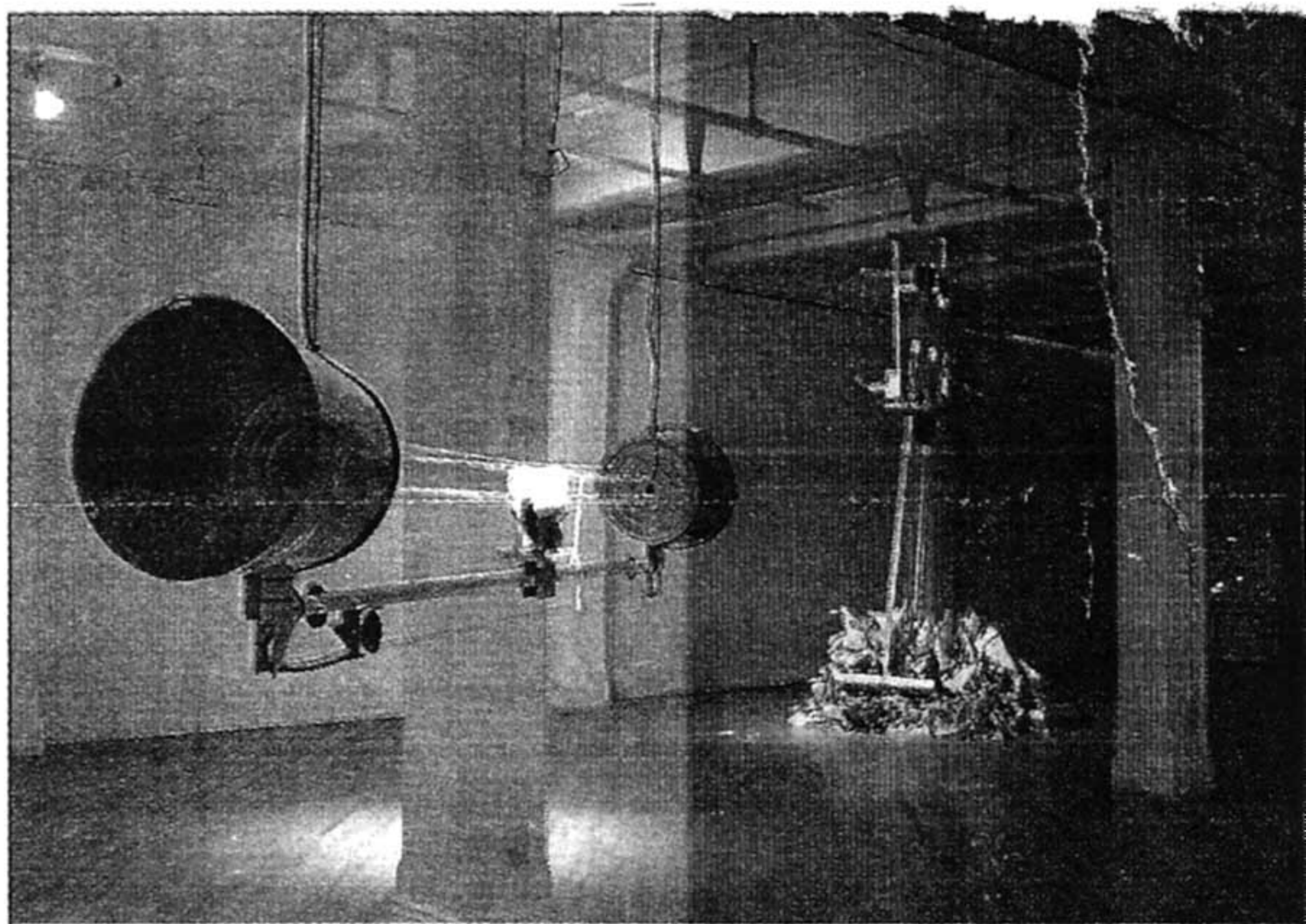
Both Milos Milidrag and Ewa Tarsia work in pure abstraction. With Tarsia, it's Joan Miró-influenced printmaking and mixed media, while Milidrag creates large, colourful paintings that are designed to help the viewer feel something, rather than trying to remind them of something they have actually seen.

Tarsia's work seems to use our province's landscape as a starting point, as well as microscopic images, before she ventures off into her own imagination.

Milidrag, who had a flourishing career in the former Yugoslavia before moving here, works in a style that's hard to pin down as far as influence goes, using a blend of vibrant colours and shapes.

These two artists create some of the more distinctive work around, and along with the many other amazing works on display now at Site, show the depth of creativity in our province.

☞ winnipegarts@hotmail.com



It is the sound rather than the mechanics that counts in exhibit.