

MARSHA DAY**Art****The Circulation of Fluids
Catherine Béchard and Sabin Hudon
AKA Gallery until June 17**

Do you hear water running? Gurgling, burbling, dripping, splashing, plop plopping, gushing? Well I do. I hear it everywhere at the AKA Gallery in an installation piece by audio artists Catherine Béchard and Sabin Hudon.

The AKA Gallery offers artists a space to display unconventional, exploratory, experimental works which can be sometimes uplifting, sometimes elusive, sometimes gawd-awful, sometimes extraordinary and sometimes, as in *The Circulation of Fluids*, very much alive with a wet watery freshness.

Posed in the middle of the gallery is their assembled contraption of pipes, horns, audio speakers, draped wires and assorted hardware forming a sculptural “pterodactyl nest” wherein individual speakers are strategically placed, each one activated as I walk around the precarious configuration. Oops, watch out for wires.

No sooner had I begun to circumnavigate the nest when my reverie changed from 100 per cent visual to 100 per cent auditory, reaching unexpected new levels when I closed my eyes and was instantly transported to a bubbling brook in a boreal forest, and then, with certainty, to a cold, damp, leaky cave. But alas, I was safe, dry and alone in the gallery; a listener set free to wander through memory and time, finding a kind of rare, private joy while making me feel super-connected to water’s poetry.

It isn’t very often that I go to an art gallery and have to close my eyes to fully appreciate the artwork. But this is one of those times, and it was amazing. As I leave the gallery I see it has started to rain. What a wonderful sound, the rain.