

Village Gallery presents 'stunning' exhibit

By: Chris Clay

June 5, 2007 08:53 PM - When Montreal artist Hyun Jou Lee comes to The Village Gallery in Port Credit this weekend for a solo exhibition, those in attendance will be introduced to a new body of work.

Culled over the last 12 months, the new collection has only been seen by a select few. Gallery director Alison Bernard, who owns several pieces by Jou Lee, hasn't even seen the work yet, but admitted she's excited about the showing.

"Hosting a solo show is atypical for The Village Gallery," said Bernard. "But I love her work. Stunning is a word to describe it. It's unique, which is very important to us. I also like that we can hang the pieces in one place. The viewer will have a good idea of the journey the artist takes in (creating) her work."

The exhibition features some 30 pieces and opens with an artist reception this Friday from 6-9 p.m. Jou Lee will also be at the gallery on Saturday from noon-5 p.m.

The exhibit runs until June 30.

"(Jou Lee) is one of our most popular artists and we wanted to give past buyers (of her art) an opportunity to meet her," said Bernard. "She lives in Montreal and rarely comes down here. It's rare that you can purchase a piece at a (fine art) gallery and meet the artist at the same time."

Born in South Korea, Jou Lee was sent away to attend school at the age of seven. The break had a major impact on the burgeoning artist, who placed a heavy premium on family life.

The artist relates stories of her father, a fisherman, through swirls of colour in her art and says the intricate parts of her paintings come from the tiny worlds she would create to entertain herself while playing at the general store her mother worked at. The artist says she's enamoured with the connectedness of all beings and is fascinated by the passing of time.

"Jou Lee's use of colour and technique is remarkable," said Bernard. "She paints in multiple layers and often will use tools to pull one of her first layers to the surface to create depth. She's an abstract artist, but within the abstraction there is the recognizable." For more information, call 905-891-9171 or visit www.thevillagegallery.com.



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