

Grrls, Chicks, Sisters & Squaws: Les citoyennes du Cyberspace

SEPTEMBER 21 TO OCTOBER 28 611 MAIN ST

CURATED BY
SKAWENNATI
TRICIA
FRAGNITO.

OPENING
RECEPTION
SEPTEMBER
21, 7 PM.

CURATOR
WILL BE
PRESENT.
EVERYONE
WELCOME.



Valerie Lamontagne, *Sister Valerie of the Internet*, on-line confessional and telematic performance, 2003-2004. Image courtesy the artist.

MYFANWY
ASHMORE

LORI
BLONDEAU

CATHY
DAVIES

KATHERINE
ISBISTER

VALERIE
LAMONTAGNE

CHERYL
L'HIRONDELLE

RAINEY
STRAUSS

THE WORLD WIDE WEB is a boundless territory – a new “final frontier” – filled with every manner of avatars and activists, grrls and geeks, Xenas and xenophobes, all industriously carving out their own corners. Until recently, most Internet users were men, but a recent study reports that women are now “catching up” to our male counterparts. We’re no longer a minority, wondering what all the fuss is about. As we gather on-line to find information, exchange stories, play games, imagine, complain and critique, we begin to affect the netscape. How are women claiming the territory known as Cyberspace? How is our participation shaping its look & feel? And, significantly, how is our participation in turn affecting the “real” world? The works selected for this exhibition represent examples from a spectrum of cyberactivism undertaken by women.

Myfanwy Ashmore's *mario_battle_no.1* (which reads “Mario battle no one”), produced in 2000, is a pacifist version of the 80s classic video game, *Super Mario Brothers*. Ashmore has hacked it, removing all the architecture, prizes, enemies, performance-enhancing drugs, and obstacles so that all you can do is go for a walk. Myfanwy Ashmore received her M.F.A. from York University in 1998. Based in Toronto, she has exhibited across Canada and internationally. In 2003 she was short-listed for the prestigious K.M. Hunter Award through the Ontario Arts Council. <http://www.student.ocad.on.ca/~myfanwyashmore/>

Treaty Card by Cheryl L'Hirondelle is a net.artwork questioning the purpose and necessity of assigning identification cards to Aboriginal people. Cheryl L'Hirondelle is an Alberta-born artist of mixed ancestry (Cree, Métis, German, Polish). Since the early 1980s, she has created, performed, and presented work in a variety of disciplines, also working as an arts programmer, cultural strategist/activist, arts consultant, producer, and director – independently and with various artist-run centres, tribal councils, and government agencies.

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SimBee, by Rainey Straus and Katherine Isbister, parodies the work of Vanessa Beecroft in a modified Sims video game. The artists have crafted Sim replicas of Beecroft's scantily-clad models, and let them loose to 'live' within a gallery space for the duration of an exhibition, encouraging the viewer to consider how issues of exploitation and voyeurism are shifted when filtered through the lens of simulation.

Rainey Straus is an installation artist and web designer, whose work focuses on the body and technology. Straus received her M.F.A. from the California College of the Arts. Her work has appeared at ISEA 2006, the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and the Canadian Design Exchange Museum, among others. www.raineystraus.com

Dr. Katherine Isbister is a Human-Computer Interface/ New Media researcher and designer. She is presently an Associate Professor and Director of the Games Research Laboratory at Rensselaer (RPI) in Troy, NY. She received her Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1998, and following a post-doctoral year at Japan's NTT Open Laboratory, worked in industry and research settings on social interface design and embodied conversational characters, presenting her work in venues around the world.

www.katherineinterface.com

Sister Valerie of the Internet, by Valerie Lamontagne, is an on-line confessional to which the public is invited to confess their sins, and also to reflect upon the role of faith and religion in technology. Valérie Lamontagne is a Montréal-based performance/digital media artist, freelance art critic and independent curator. Her works have been showcased across Canada, the United States and Europe. She presently teaches at Concordia University (Montréal) in the Design and Computation Arts program and is a co-founder, with Brad Todd, of the media arts collective MobileGaze.

www.mobilegaze.com/valerie

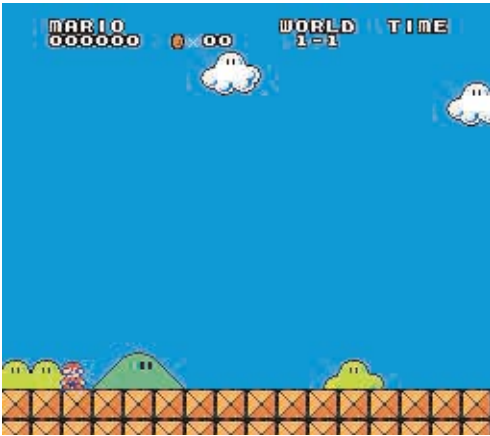
Dollar Hack, by Los Angeles-based artist Cathy Davies, is a set of instructions for a unique form of activism, in an easy-to-download PDF format. Davies has redesigned familiar corporate logos so that you may print them onto dollar bills, making it appear as if McDonald's, Microsoft, and the like are "paid corporate sponsors . . . of money!" The artist has created a Canadian version especially for this exhibition.

Cathy Davies is a Los Angeles artist who uses information architecture and interface design to create user friendly propaganda. Her work intelligently circulates on digital networks and centers on art as a "gift economy," graphic design as a service industry, and shoplifting from corporate and marketing culture. <http://cathydavies.com/>

Also premiering here is the Flash movie version of Lori Blondeau's 1999 cyberperformance, featuring



Rainey Straus and Katherine Isbister,
Top to bottom: *SIMBee1*, *SIMBee2*, *SIMBee3*.
In-game screen images
courtesy the artists.



Left: Myfanwy Ashmore, *mario_battle_no.1* (mario battle no-one), illegally hacked video game rom, 2000. Image courtesy the artist.

Right: Myfanwy Ashmore, *mario_doing_time*, illegally hacked video game rom, 2004. Image courtesy the artist.

her saucy character, *Cosmosquaw*. This quasi reenactment-slash-document (it is one of the first virtual performances ever, certainly the first by an Aboriginal artist) provokes us to question our ideas about territory, race and gender, as our heroine leads us through imagined and real landscapes, and finally into a virtual round dance that original participants still recall with enthusiasm.

Lori Blondeau is a performance artist based in Saskatoon, where she completed her M.F.A. at the University of Saskatchewan. She is a co-founder and the current director of one of Canada's most innovative and exciting aboriginal arts organizations, TRIBE. Lori's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, including a remounting of her performance, *We Want to be Just Like Barbie That Bitch has Everything*, for the 1998 group exhibition, *The People's Plastic Princess* at The Walter Phillips Gallery in Banff, and in 2002 she presented a performance in Milan, Italy for the exhibition *Americas Remixed*.

Right: Cathy Davies, *Dollar Hack*, downloadable PDF, 2001-2002. Image courtesy the artist.

CURATOR'S BIO

Skawennati Tricia Fragnito is an artist, writer and independent curator whose projects have included *CyberPowWow*, a virtual gallery and chat space; *Imagining Indians in the 25th Century*, a web-based paper doll/time-travel journal; and her music video series, *80 Minutes*, *80 Movies*, *80s Music*. She graduated from Concordia University in Montreal with a B.F.A. in 1992, then went on to complete a graduate Diploma in Institutional Administration (Arts Specialization). In 1994, Skawennati co-founded *Nation to Nation*, a First Nations artist collective, whose exhibitions have included *TattooNation* and *Native Love*. As Curatorial Resident at the Walter Phillips Gallery at The Banff Centre for the Arts in 1998-99, she mounted *Blanket Statements*, an exhibition of art quilts, and *The People's Plastic Princess*, a survey of more than thirty years of Barbie art. While living in San Francisco, Skawennati produced Arts Alliance Laboratory's monthly CRIT (Critical Reviews of Interactive Technology) nights and co-curated "New Fangle" for GenArtSF. Her articles have appeared in *Fuse*, *Horizon Zero*, and *Blackflash*, among others. Her artwork has been shown across Canada and the U.S.A., plus in Beijing, and is in the collection of the Art Bank of Canada. Learn even more about her projects at www.skawennati.net.

SEPTEMBER 21

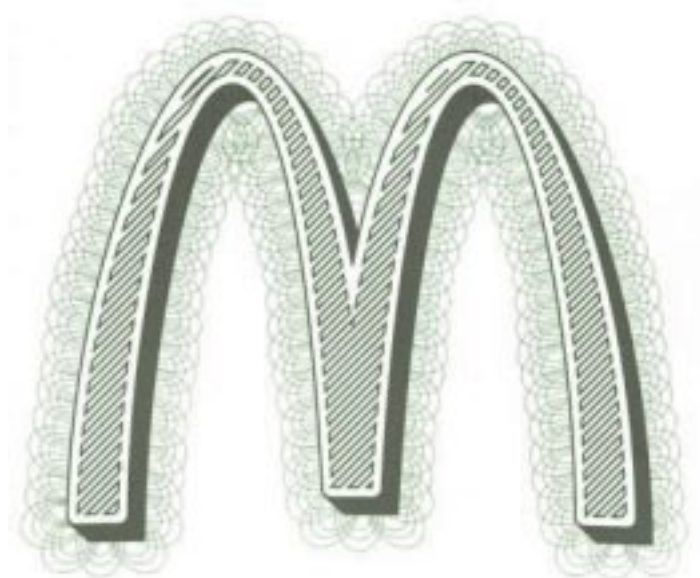
Grrls, Chicks, Sisters & Squaws: Les Citoyennes du Cyberspace exhibition opening reception at 7 pm
611 Main Street
Curator will be present. All welcome.
Launch of exhibition website: www.citoyennes.org

SEPTEMBER 22

Skawennati Tricia Fragnito studio visits.
Register early at 949-9490 for your
one hour studio visit.

SEPTEMBER 23

Skawennati Tricia Fragnito public lecture
2 pm, 611 Main Street



REVA STONE

12 NOON . SEPTEMBER 1 . 611 MAIN ST.

WHEN ART MEETS ARTIFICIAL LIFE: AN EXPLORATORY CONVERSATION

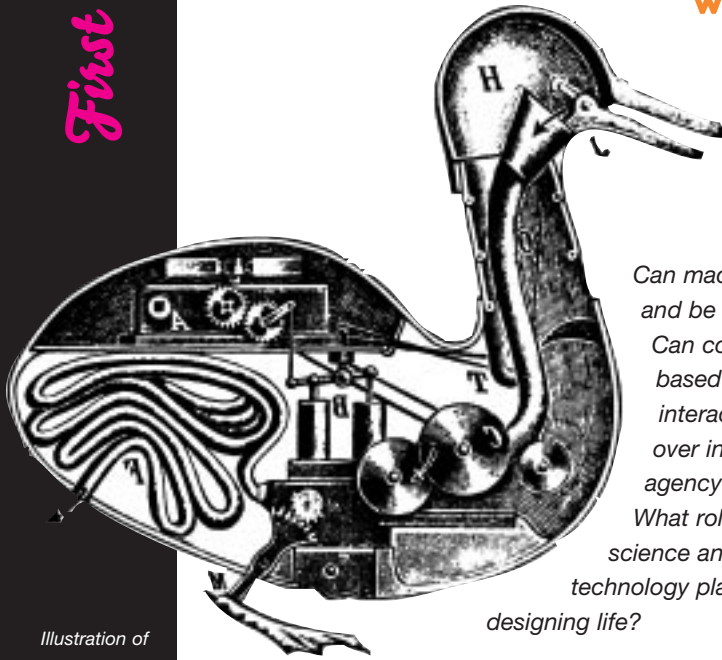


Illustration of Jacques de Vaucanson's automaton Canard Digérateur (Digesting Duck), ca. 1738

*Can machines think and be self-aware?
Can computer-based codes for interactivity cross over into living agency?
What roles do science and technology play in designing life?*

Join Reva Stone for a conversation about artificial life—an area of investigation that is affecting contemporary art practice. She will speak about the ideas and issues that she is researching as she develops her current project combining voice and face recognition software, video capture and graphics to create a work that appears to have sentience.

In her work, Reva Stone investigates western culture's drive to model, simulate, engineer and manipulate biological life. Living matter is being revealed as increasingly mutable. She says "I have responded to the technologization of living matter by creating works that seem to mutate, evolve and respond with a life of their own. I situate my work at the increasingly blurred boundary between what is born and what is manufactured, what is animate and what is inanimate." Stone has exhibited her work internationally and is also active as a curator, a writer, an educator, and a mentor to artists through MAWA, Mentoring Artists for Women's Art.

Individual consultations with Stone will be scheduled on a first come basis with registration at 1 pm, immediately following her presentation.

BRING YOUR LUNCH, COFFEE PROVIDED.
EVERYONE WELCOME. ADMISSION IS FREE.

Heads Up

SEPTEMBER 1

First Friday **Reva Stone** 12 pm, 611 Main Street

SEPTEMBER 21

Grrls, Chicks, Sisters & Squaws: Les Citoyennes du Cyberspace

Internet and Gallery exhibition opening reception at 7pm, 611 Main Street. Curator will be present. All welcome. Launch of exhibition website: www.citoyennes.org

SEPTEMBER 22

Deadline 4 pm: **Members submissions & ads for November/December/January 2007 newsletter**

SEPTEMBER 23

Skawennati Tricia Fragnito studio visits.

Register early at 949-9490 for your one hour studio visit.

Skawenmati Tricia Fragnito public lecture

2 pm, 611 Main Street. All welcome.

SEPTEMBER 30

Deadline 4 pm: **Proposals for Critical Reading Group**

NO FIRST FRIDAY IN OCTOBER



Self-taught artist **Manju Lodha**'s rich Rajasthani culture is visible through the gorgeous bright colours in her paintings of ancient India brought into modern life. Her exhibition of paintings, "Connecting East and West", will be featured September 14 to 27 at Fleet Galleries, 65 Albert St., Winnipeg, MB.

Manju Lodha
Spiritual and materialistic use of wealth
multi-media painting
2002, from the *Jain* series.
Image courtesy the artist.

Unlearn, September 15 – November 18, 2006, organized by Plug In ICA, and curated by Steven Matijcio, assembles an international group of artists testing their capacity for redefinition within the spectacle of pop culture, all sharing an interest in recoding the circulation of signs – as well as their monopoly of meaning. Looking

backward and forward at once, this exhibition questions if this system can ever be reconfigured: wondering aloud if the gestures of these artists are rebellious acts of repatriation, or futile rearrangements of an entrenched system. Included in the exhibition are Winnipeg artists **Bonnie Marin** and Paul Butler.

Linda Duvall will present *Embroidered Truths and Shameless Lies* – a mobile performance at the corner of Queen and McCaul, Toronto - as part of *Nuit Blanche*, September 30, 7 pm to October 1, 7 am. Listen to Duvall's stories and then tell them back to her in her roaming portable booth, gradually experiencing these tales as your own. Visit <http://livewithculture.ca> for more details on *Nuit Blanche* Toronto.

Watch for Linda Duvall's two new web projects: Visit *White Lies*, at: www.lindaduvall.com/white_lies and vote for the best liar. This project was developed in partnership with Mendel Art Gallery. Visit *Great Expectations* at www.lindaduvall.com/great_expectations to join a discussion of the kinds of issues that surround most regional art galleries. *Great Expectations* was developed in partnership with the Kitchener Waterloo Art Gallery. Project launches at the end of August.

Linda Duvall will also present *Tea and Gossip* at the Art Gallery of Calgary September 9, 2006 to January 13, 2007. Opening reception Friday, September 8, 7:00 pm. Art Gallery of Calgary, 117-8 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T2P 1B4

Linda Duvall
Embroidered Truths and Shameless Lies, 2006.
Photo courtesy Jesse Loewy.





Leah Decter's residency exhibition *Cold Comfort*, a collaborative installation with Toronto artist Michael Caines, will be on display at Raid Projects in Los Angeles from October through December. Decter's recent work will also be presented October 11-14 in Toronto as part of the panel *Mapping New Textile Territory: Memory, Materiality and Process* at the Textile Society of America's Tenth Biennial Symposium *Textile Narratives and Conversions*.

Left: Leah Decter, *Cold Comfort*, detail, 2006. Photo courtesy the artist.

Below: Leah Decter, *Trespass/es*, installation view, 2006. Photo courtesy Rob Lovatt, Keywest Photo.



Target Marketing, a new performance work by **Shawna Dempsey** and **Lorri Millan**, will be presented by FemFest Tuesday, October 24 at 9 pm and Wednesday, October 25 at 8 pm in Contemporary Dancers Studio on Bannatyne.

Shawna and Lorri will also be teaching a performance workshop at 3pm at Colin Jackson Studio Theatre, Prairie Theatre Exchange, Portage Place Mall. For further information contact FemFest at (204)586-2236 sarasvati@prairie.ca



Ellen Moffat's *Claybank Voices: How Men Made White Clay Into Cape Canaveral* is a multi-channel, site-specific audio installation for *CrossFirings*, a cross-disciplinary art event at the Claybank Brick Factory in southern Saskatchewan from August 18 to September 2. Moffat's collage of spoken word, music, and ambient sound installed in a beehive kiln reflects the evolution of the site from one of industrial production to cultural presentation. *Claybank Voices* will be adapted for exhibition at the Swift Current Art Gallery from October to November.

Ellen Moffat, *Claybank Voices* installation site, 2006. Photo courtesy the artist.

UPCOMING GRANT DEADLINES

WINNIPEG ARTS COUNCIL

Professional Development Grant Program
 There is no set deadline. Applications will be received throughout the year at least one month prior to the activity to be undertaken.

Project Grant Program
 Deadline Tuesday, September 12

MANITOBA ARTS COUNCIL

Travel / Professional Development Grant in the Visual Arts. No set deadline. Apply at least four weeks prior to project.
 Travel / Professional Development Grant for Aboriginal Artists. No set deadline. Apply at least four weeks prior to project.

SEPTEMBER

1st Creation/Production Grants in the Visual Arts (A,B,C)
 15th Crafts Grant

OCTOBER

1st Artists in the Schools Directory Program
 Community Connections and Access Program
 Film/Video Grants

NOVEMBER

30th Aboriginal Arts Creative Development
 Aboriginal Arts Mentorship, Training and Development

CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

Travel Grants to Inter-Arts Professionals –
 Deadline at least six weeks prior to departure date

SEPTEMBER

15th Aboriginal Traditional Art Forms Program

OCTOBER

1st Travel Grants to Professional Visual Artists
 Grants to New Media and Audio Artists: Research and Production Grants, and New Media Residencies

NOVEMBER

1st Media Arts Dissemination Project Grants
 15th Inter-Arts Program: Dissemination Grants and Creation/Production Grants

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

PLEASURE DOME

Seeking submissions for short, original media based works that conceptualize the supernatural genres – uncanny, marvelous and fantastic. Formats can include super 8, 16mm, video, podcasts, interactive websites, power point, CD-Roms, and multi-media (i.e. narrative/

film) performances. Please keep the length of your work under five minutes. Submit work, a one-page resume/ biography, current e-mail address, self-addressed postcard (to acknowledge receipt) and a self-addressed envelope (for work to be returned) to: Pleasure Dome, 132 Wychwood Avenue, Toronto M6G 2Y2. Submission Deadline: September 15th, 2006. For more information contact Tom @ 416-656-5577 or pdome@ican.net. Selected works will be shown October 19th, 2006.

VARLEY GALLERY

Canadian Artists Without Borders

January 28 – May 11, 2007

Unionville, ON - Located in one of the most diverse communities in Canada, the Varley is opening the door to exploring the newest in Canadian art from its newest arrivals. The Varley seeks to discover the breadth of art being created by artists living less than 10 years in Canada. "The challenge of finding the artists, learning from their experiences in Canada, and seeing the breadth of work moves us ahead in our quest to better engage and be more accessible to newly arrived artists and citizens" said Gallery Director, John Ryerson.

Varley guest curator Hanna Guirges has been working these past eight months to build relations into communities largely from Mid-Eastern countries. "This is a significant time in the history of Canada and for those bringing their creative talents to their new home. It involves in all cases uprooting partially or totally from one's own culture and re-rooting or transplanting in the host soil. It is the experience of all generations."

The exhibition is a juried call across Canada. To receive the Call for Artists, call (905) 477-9511 or visit the website at www.varleygallery.ca. Deadline September 15, 2006

INSOMNIA AT THE RED HEAD GALLERY

Founded in 1991, the Red Head Gallery is one of Canada's most respected artist co-operatives, showcasing a broad range of contemporary visual art by emerging and established artists. *Insomnia at the Red Head Gallery* seeks work which explores sleeplessness as a physical, cultural, political or psychological state. Emphasis will be placed on the ephemeral, the multiple and the obsessive. All media will be considered but please keep in mind that we do not have equipment for video, audio or electronics and artists will need to make the necessary arrangements.

Exhibition dates: September 27-October 7, 2006. For more information please visit www.redheadgallery.org *Insomnia at the Red Head Gallery* is part of Nuit Blanche Toronto. Visit <http://livewithculture.ca> for more details on Nuit Blanche Toronto.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2006-07
FOUNDATION MENTORSHIP PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Colette Balcaen and
Morag Schonken
will be working with
mentor Shawna Dempsey.

Suzie Smith and
Mia Feuer
will be working with
mentor Jennifer Stillwell.

Kale Bonham and
Leah Fontaine
will be working with
mentor Catherine Mattes.

Pauline Braun and
Jeannine Chudzik
will be working with
mentor Barb Flemington.

MAWA RESIDENCY APARTMENT
RESERVE YOUR STAY IN MAWA'S NEWLY RENOVATED APARTMENT AT 611 MAIN STREET

MEMBERS: \$45 per night / Monthly rate: \$1000 (less than 30 days is nightly rate)
NON-MEMBERS: \$50 per night / Monthly rate: \$1200 (less than 30 days is nightly rate)
For further information or organization rates contact Stacey at 949-9490 or info@mawa.ca



MAWA AGM

Thursday
November 2
7 pm
611 Main Street

Please be sure your
membership is current.



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FOR BEGINNERS & ADVANCED ARTISTS**

Weekend work shop hours are

Friday 7pm to 10 pm,

Saturday 9 am to 4 pm and

Sunday 9 am to 12 pm.

Registration \$65.00

(\$55.00 if you are a member of the

Dauphin Art Group)

Classes will be held in the Fire Hall at the DDAAC.

September 28, October 5, 12 & 19th, 7 to 10 pm

Instructor: Libby Weir

Painting workshop, beginners welcome! Learn to paint with Watercolors or Oil or Acrylic paints.

Structured class, with four three hour classes.

September 22 – 24th

Instructor: Steve Gouthro

Painting & Drawing, 12 hour structured workshop

October 20 – 22nd

Instructor: Pauline Braun

Watercolor & Pencil Crayon 12 hour structured workshop.

**CRITICAL READING GROUP
FACILITATOR FOR 2006–07**

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS:

SEPTEMBER 30, 4 PM

MAWA's Critical Reading Group is a thematically-focused program, which meets monthly for 6 months. Participants develop the skills to analyze and discuss critical texts. The Facilitator organizes readings and facilitates discussion. Honorarium provided.

Proposals should include the following:

- ✍ title and theme
- ✍ proposed readings (for 3 sessions)
- ✍ c.v. and bio

Address submissions to:

Vera Lemecha, Executive Director

MAWA, 611 Main Street, Winnipeg, MB R3B 1E1

**MAWA'S RESOURCE CENTRE
IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!**

TUESDAY TO SATURDAY

NOON TO 4 PM

Check out our holdings at

www.mawa.ca – Resource Centre.

Bring your MAWA membership card to borrow books for 3 weeks.

**MAWA WISHES
TO THANK
THE FOLLOWING
FRIENDS
WHO HAVE
DONATED TO US
SINCE APRIL 2006**

Eva Granger

Eileen Sommerman

Linda Fairfield

Bev Pike

Meagan Perry

Judy Bowyer

mawa welcomes

**VANESSA KROEKER
OUR NEW PROGRAM ASSISTANT**



Vanessa Kroeker is an artist and continuous student, recently returning to Winnipeg from Halifax, Nova Scotia, where she has been studying in the fine arts faculty at NSCAD University. Working mainly in artist multiples and ephemera, her work has been displayed at Eye level gallery in Halifax and Printed Matter in New York. She has been involved with Winnipeg's othergallery for the past two years, in office administration, grant writing, and public relations, as well as providing grant writing assistance to various local artists.

Vanessa can be reached at programassistant@mawa.ca or 989-2318.



On September 21, the inaugural exhibition in our new space opens. Titled *Grrls, Chicks, Sisters and Squaws: Les Citoyennes du Cyberspace*, this inter-national media exhibition is guest-curated by Montreal curator, writer and artist, Skawennati Tricia Fragnito. Premiering here will be Lori Blondeau's brilliant and funny performance as *Cosmosquaw* in Flash movie version. Revisit Mario, who first appeared in 1981 in Donkey Kong, in artist Myfanwy Ashmore's *mario_battle_no.1*. Experience *SimBee*, Rainey Straus and Katherine Isbister's version of the Sims, the many-versioned popular simulation game. For a month, MAWA will be transformed into an Internet café, complete with espresso bar. Join us on September 21 for the opening reception and to meet the curator. And, whether you live in Winnipeg or are one of our international members, do join us on the same date for the launch of the on-line version of the exhibition, which is much more than documentation.

September will also see the launch of our new residency apartment, which will provide our mentors in residence and visiting artists and curators with comfortable accommodation, located conveniently in the same building as MAWA. If you're an out of town member, check out our member's rates the next time you plan a visit to Winnipeg. Our apartment is one of eight residential units in our building. It combines the beauty of a historic building with the convenience of

such things as new appliances in the kitchen area. Watch your email for an announcement of a tour of the apartment in early September.

I hope to see you all at our September *First Friday*, with Reva Stone!

Vera Lemecha

Current Board of Directors

tamara rae biebrich (chair), Patricia Bovey, Shirley Brown, Louise Duguay, Elvira Finnigan, Cheyenne Henry, Amy Karlinsky (vice-chair), Dana Kletke (treasurer), Holly Procktor, Catherine Toews, Iris Yudai (secretary)

STAFF

Vera Lemecha, Executive Director: vlmecha@mawa.ca
 Stacey Abramson, Office Administrator: info@mawa.ca
 Vanessa Kroeker, Program Assistant:
programassistant@mawa.ca

DESIGN Susan Chafe

611 Main Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3B 1E1
 (204) 949-9490 info@mawa.ca <http://www.mawa.ca>

MAWA and its projects are generously funded by The Manitoba Arts Council, The Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage, The WH & SE Loewen Foundation, The Winnipeg Arts Council, The Winnipeg Foundation, Thomas Sill Foundation, donors and members.



Do you have a business you want more people to know about?

Or do you just want a better way to let the arts community know about your services?

Why not advertise in the MAWA Newsletter?

MAWA's newsletter is a direct way to reach the local and national arts and culture community. 1000 copies are distributed nationally to arts organizations, artist-run centres, public galleries, educational institutions, professional associations, and our members.

MAWA's members include emerging/mid-career artists and established, internationally-recognized artists, as well as students, curators, administrators, designers, art critics/writers, scholars, and industry professionals.

Our extremely reasonable rates are as follows:

business card \$50.00 quarter page \$100.00 half page \$200.00
 full page \$300.00 back cover – full page \$400.00

IT PAYS TO BE A MEMBER!

MAWA MEMBERS GET 10% OFF REGULAR AD RATES.

For more information on advertising or membership, please contact Office Administrator Stacey Abramson at 949-9490 or info@mawa.ca

Deadline for ads for the November/December/January 2007 Newsletter is Friday, September 22 @ 4pm.