

401 update

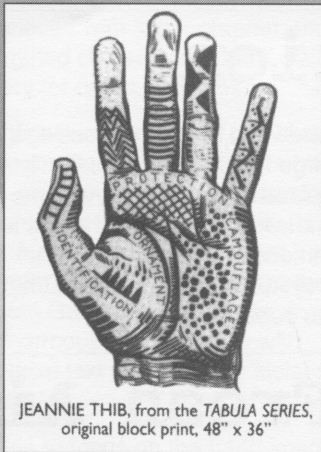
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inside

Profile
Jeannie Thib &
Bruce Holland



JEANNIE THIB, from the TABULA SERIES, original block print, 48" x 36"

Welcome

We'd like to welcome several new tenants to the building this month. They include:

- Esmerelda Enrique (Academy of Spanish Dance) Suite B104
- Noreen Wright-Richards (Nor's Fashion) Suite 219
- Nancy Egan (Watercolourist for Textile Industry) Suite 348

Tenant Suggestions

Some of the suggestions that arose out of the tenant interviews conducted by Lesley Soden, Communications Coordinator, this month were excellent. We have already begun instituting a number of them. Here they are:

- install bicycle rack (that will sustain a kryptonite lock) at the front of the building
- incorporate neighbourhood watch on each floor as an added safety feature
- facilitate joint floor cleaning services for interested tenants
- add banner reading "multimedia" to those planned for north face of building
- research joint medical and dental plans for interested tenants

Our thanks to all those who presented us with new ideas. Please keep them coming.

Tenant Services

A number of tenants have expressed an interest in using internal services at 401 Richmond. To that end, those tenants who would like to have their product or service listed in next month's Update, should complete the following form and return it to the management office (Suite 204) by August 12, 1994.

Company Name: _____

Suite No. _____

Description of Product(s) and/or Service(s): _____

Getting the Word Out

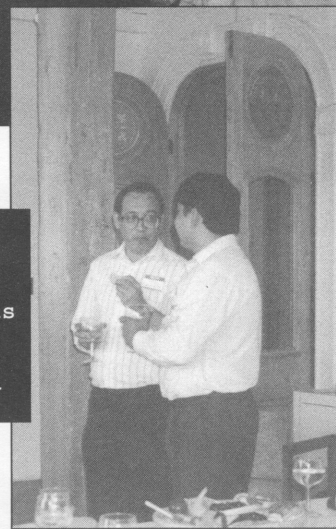
For your information, copies of the Update are not only distributed to all tenants At 401 Richmond, but also to various arts organizations and real estate companies throughout Toronto.

Tenant Wine and Cheese Party

On Thursday, July 14, 1994, one hundred partygoers mingled at the new management office at 401 Richmond St. West. The festive event gave tenants an opportunity to meet and remeet one another, and to get to know the new owners of the building, Eb and Jane Zeidler. A special thanks to promoter Anya Wilson (Suite 220) for generously supplying African music for the party.



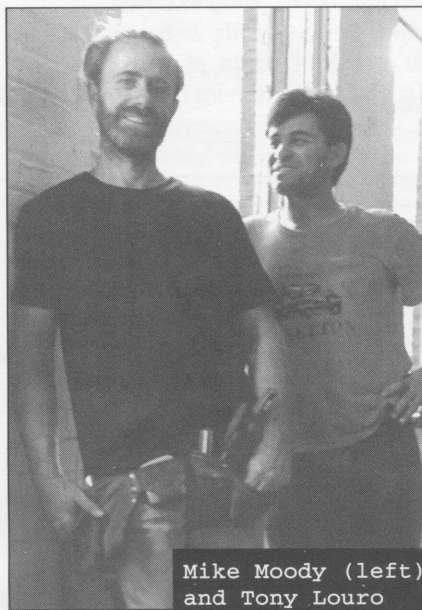
Some of the many tenants who enjoyed themselves as part of the wine and cheese party



Location Location Location!

In a recent survey of tenants, we found that "location" was the number one reason for renting at 401 Richmond. Whether close to home, art galleries or suppliers, tenants almost unanimously agreed that location is the best feature of the building. Other positives cited were: reasonable rent; good relationship with management; interesting mix of people and businesses; the building's character

(renovated warehouse, hardwood floors, high ceilings, lots of light and space); and large freight elevators. For female artists, safety was emphasized as a key feature of the building. Compared with other affordable spaces, there is a feeling of security at 401 Richmond because of the after hours/weekend passcard system, friendly tenant atmosphere, and quick access to public transportation.



Mike Moody (left) and Tony Louro

A Breath of Fresh Air

Due to the work of craftsmen Mike Moody, the historic windows at 401 Richmond – long painted shut – have begun to open. As a test project, Mike restored five windows in the new management/leasing office (Suite 204), a complex process that involved stripping several layers of paint on each mullion and frame, replacing cracked glass and shredded sash cord, reputtying, and repainting the exterior wood. In the hallways, Mike brought the windows into workable condition and gave all of us the crossdraft we so desperately needed during the early July heat wave.

Originally from Pointe Claire, Quebec, Mike taught high-school English and woodworking for 18 years. He spent time in Java and Italy, and two years ago, returned to Canada to begin a career in restoration and renovation. Now living in Georgetown, Mike spends the one hour commute to Toronto studying ancient philosophy - in Latin, no less! His passion for the "old" translates into the care he has taken at 401 Richmond. Other examples of Mike's handiwork are the arched doorway to the management office and the landscaped garden at the front of the building. Working with Mike is Tony Louro. Tony will be featured in next month's Update.

profile

Jeannie Thib & Bruce Holland (Suite 362)

Jeannie Thib is one of Toronto's most respected printmakers. A graduate of York University (Bachelor of Fine Arts, 1979), this North Bay native has shown her work in over 45 solo, collective and group exhibits throughout Canada. She has been a tenant at 401 Richmond for the past 5 1/2 years.

We spoke to Jeannie about her orientation to art and her current work. With a carpenter Father and a photographer mother, Jeannie naturally gravitated to art in her youth. "I always wanted to be an artist," she says. At university she focussed on painting and printmaking, and except for a short period as an employee of the post office, she was fortunate to have work in the arts ever since. Just out of university, she apprenticed with a lithographer, taught art to gifted children, and later, painted scenery for opera and films.

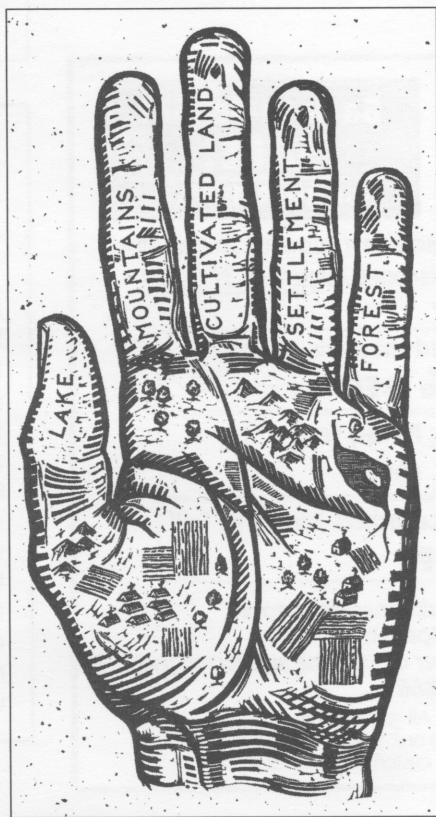
Jeannie's primary interest has been in creating large scale black and white prints. Over the past few years, she has concentrated her images on the human body. A powerful series entitled *Tabula* (see right), recently exhibited at the Redpath Gallery in Vancouver, features five enormous linocut hands with geological text and symbols incised on them.

"I chose to focus on the hand image," she explains, "because of its ability to represent both individual identity and collective or cultural identity." The title refers to the blank slate or 'tabula rasa' we are born with, but is an inversion of the meaning: the hand is not a clean slate, but rather, a map or territory lined with personal history and experience.

"The work is about our connection with the past," she states, "but also about the incomplete nature of our relationship with it, with the fragmentary way history informs the present." What human beings have done with their hands in order to survive, the mark they have made on the earth – and its future fate – are also issues in this work.

"References to extinct civilizations, information about how to survive in the wilderness, and fears concerning the future are found throughout," says Jeannie. This significant artwork has drawn considerable public attention. Nestles Canada recently purchased two of the *Tabula* series for its corporate collection.

Jeannie took the time to explain the fascinating process of printmaking to us. She buys "battleship" linoleum (made of



cork and glue with a burlap backing) from a rug company, cuts it into 4' x 3' pieces, and draws directly on it. Using a variety of U and V-shaped tools, she carves into the linoleum to create a relief or block print. She then inks a roller and applies the ink to the carved linoleum, and takes Japanese mulberry paper (with flecks of bark in it) and places it over the relief. Using a wooden door knob, Jeannie methodically rubs the paper (which takes about 2 1/2



Bruce Holland and
printmaker
Jeannie Thib

hours) to obtain a printed image on the underside of the sheet.

Jeannie's work is part of such important public and private collections as The Art Gallery of Peterborough, Memorial University in St. John's and the Royal Bank of Canada. Recently, a work entitled "Totem" (1989), on loan from the Canada Council Art Bank, was installed in the Barbara Frum Atrium of the new CBC Building on Front Street. Jeannie has been awarded over a dozen arts grants and been a visiting artist/instructor at art galleries and school boards throughout Ontario. Her next major showing will be at the Niagara Artists' Centre in St. Catharines this October.

Sharing Suite 362 on a part-time basis is Bruce Holland, founder of Condor Custom Framing. A fellow student of Jeannie's at York, Bruce majored in photography and printmaking. After university, he worked for a short while at an advertising agency as a writer, but before long, found himself doing framing and photography for Jeannie's art shows. Since then, Bruce has developed expertise as a custom framer and gets his clients primarily through word of mouth. All of his work is museum quality (100% rag boards and acid-free backing) with ultra-violet inhibiting glazing (glass or plexiglas), custom millwork and colour or stain finishes also available. Bruce has recently expanded beyond framing to contracting and just completed renovations to a retail outlet in the east-end. He can be contacted at (416) 461-8027 for custom work and would be pleased to provide a free estimate at any time.

J U L Y 1 9 9 4

bulletin board

A regular feature of 401 UPDATE, the Bulletin Board is your opportunity to communicate with other tenants and keep them in touch with what is happening in your organization. If you are having a sale or exhibition, or just want to tell others about your product/service, simply supply Margie Zeidler or Lesley Soden in the management office with the written information and we will print it here.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Carlton Griffiths, Building Manager, on his marriage to Christine Bryan (July 30, 1994).

Window Cleaning

At last! Exterior windows will be washed in August. We will advise you of the exact times and locations in advance. Arrangements can be made to have the interior of your windows cleaned as well.

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Renovations Renovations

Renovations to the front entrance and lobby, originally scheduled to begin in August, will be held up due to the length of time it will take to get a building permit and approval from the fire department. In the meantime, we will proceed with a test in the lobby of the second floor which will involve stripping back the floors to their original hardwood and painting the walls white. We expect the test to be completed by the end of July and would appreciate your feedback on the "new look" before we continue with the rest of the building.

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