

401 Richmond update

April
'95

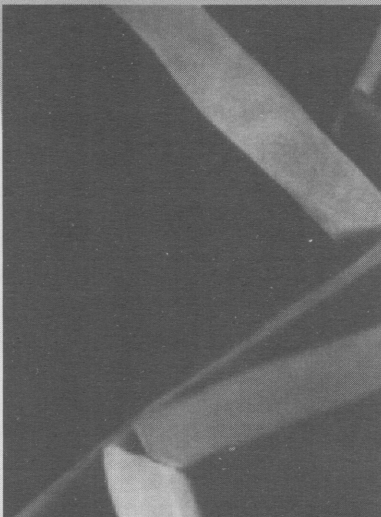


volume 2
number 2

Published by 401 Richmond Ltd.

inside

Profile:
Lois
Lawson-Ellis



Welcome

- **Camping Out Centre for Learning** (a non-profit organization initiating a programme for youth dealing with issues of sexual orientation) - Studio B174
- **The Drawing Room** (graphic design) - Studio 203
- **d-Code** (helping companies anticipate change in the youth market and applying that information to new ideas) - Studio 218
- **The Centre for Indigenous Theatre** (non-profit Aboriginal theatre organization) - Studio 260
- **P. Elaine Sharpe** (photographer) - Studio 357
- **Sister Vision Press** (publisher for black women/women of colour) - Studio 431
- **The Talent Group Ltd.** (a full service talent agency for film, television and theatre) and **Performer Payroll Services Ltd.** (a payroll company that specializes in the advertising industry) - Studio 401

Expansion within 401

- **Yunker Designs** (women's wear design) - Studio 387
- **Mendocino** (women's retail clothing) - Studio 232

Moved within 401

- **Laura Beazley Studios** (jewellery design) - formerly Studio 363, now Studio 419
- **The Learning Edge** (multi-media) - formerly Studio 355, now Studio 424
- **Amaral & Holloway Studios** (graphic design/photography) - formerly Studio 357, now Studio 420

Tenant Suggestions

Thanks to the following tenants for some terrific ideas.

- * **Oliga Kouyoumjian** of **Kilim Crafts** (Studio 130) recommended that we put a bulletin board by the post office boxes on the ground floor for tenants to display information and communicate to one another. As a result, we posted a bulletin board this past month.
- **Doug Stewart** of **Watch Magazine** (Studio 245) suggested that 401 Richmond get its very own mailbox. After requesting (and being turned down for) one, we learned that the post office will be installing a box just outside our building or at the corner of Spadina and Richmond because of our request.

U of Waterloo Artist Survey

The University of Waterloo recently conducted a survey involving artists at 401 Richmond. The school is researching artists' studio in Toronto with the aim of making recommendations to various civic agencies for the development of further studio space for artists in the city. Currently, there are 12 practicing artists at 401.

profile

Lois Lawson-Ellis

I entered Lois Lawson-Ellis' art studio at 401 Richmond - a space not unlike that of a New York loft - to the sounds of marvellous classical music. Lois prepared a cup of tea for me and suggested I take some time to look at her work. What I saw were a series of large-scale drawings rendered in charcoal. Three pieces depicted cardboard boxes of various shapes and sizes with flaps open stacked upon each other. The effect was mesmerizing. Although representational in nature, the overall image was curiously abstract.

Regarding her choice in subject matter, Lois states, "My conceptual concerns have been directed thematically towards the notion of the contained space as a visual metaphor." Utilization of this motif stems from her desire to create an image which is expressive both on a psychological and meta-physical level.

"The works" says Lois, "attempt to encompass a variety of oppositions and formal contrasts. For example, chaos and order or darkness to light become metaphors for deeper thematic issues."

A graduate of the Ontario College of Art (1981), Lois has continued to pursue her career in the visual arts and exhibited in group and solo contexts. During her post-graduate year at OCA, Lois was fortunate to receive a scholarship

which allowed her to participate in the Florence, Italy Off-Campus programme. "It was a rare opportunity," she observes, "to live, study and create work in a city which played such an instrumental role in shaping the development of Western Art. Lois completed her Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Guelph, and, in 1986,

joined the faculty staff at the Ontario College of Art.

Lois' current focus on "boxed imagery" was influenced while researching "assemblages/constructions" in 1989-90 to include in her newly restructured and expanded "Media" course. She discovered a text entitled: Art in Boxes. Although superficial in its survey format, the book nevertheless provided points of reference which she later examined in more depth. Much of Lois' source material was facilitated through the use of public/private gallery catalogues and numerous visits to New York City book shops.

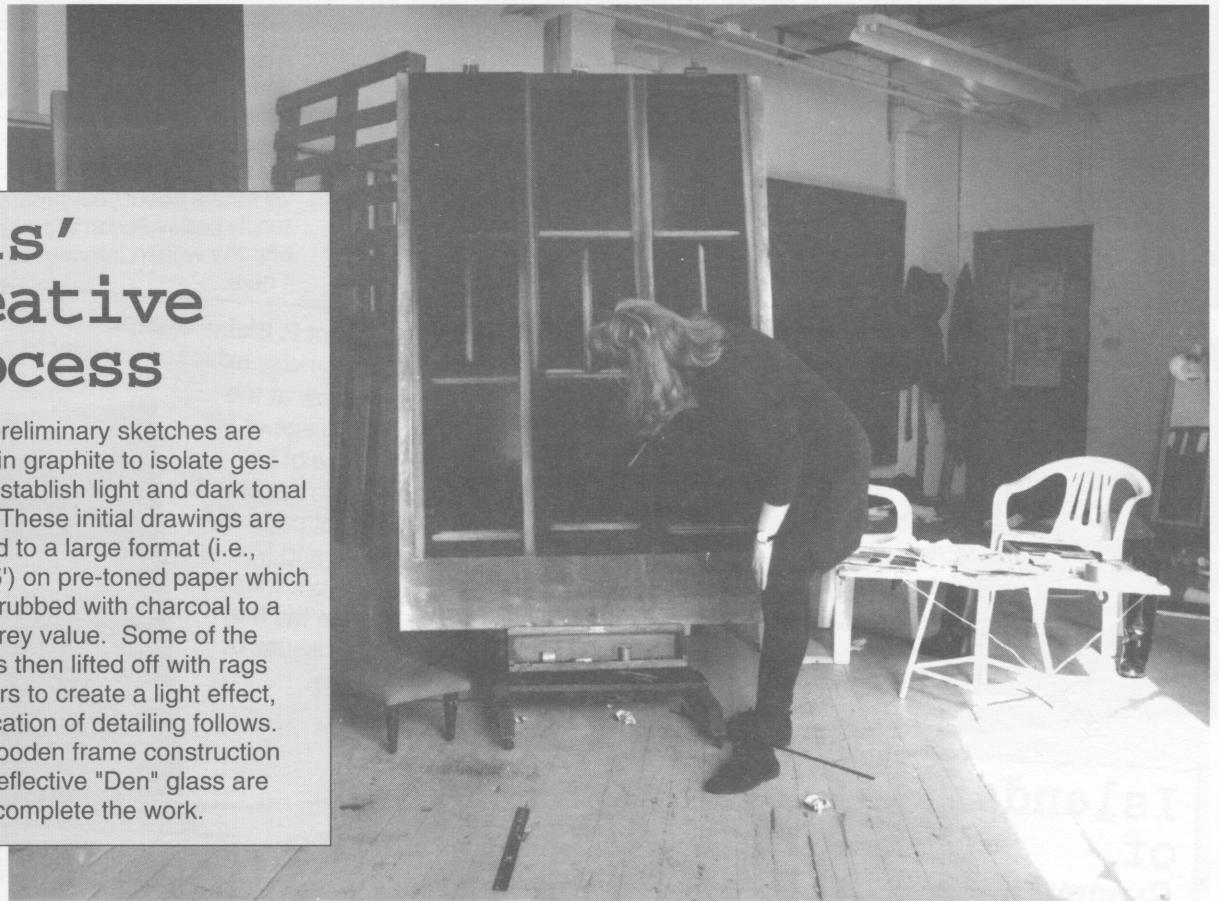
Since then, Lois admits, "I have been interested in the low reliefs, assemblages and constructions of the 20th century, particularly those found within the Dada and Neo-Dada Art Movements. There are elements within the works of assemblage-oriented artists such as Arman and Nevelson that are of personal interest to me and, no doubt, have influenced aspects of my work and its creative process."

Lois first came to 401 Richmond West two and a half years ago. Some of the features which attracted her to the building were the high ceilings and wide freight elevators, important factors to consider when working with large-scale artworks.

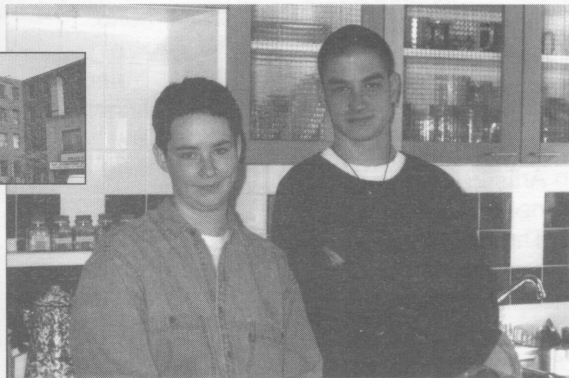


Lois' Creative Process

Small preliminary sketches are done in graphite to isolate gesture and establish light and dark tonal patterns. These initial drawings are transferred to a large format (i.e., 10.5' x 6.5') on pre-toned paper which has been rubbed with charcoal to a medium grey value. Some of the charcoal is then lifted off with rags and erasers to create a light effect, and application of detailing follows. A black wooden frame construction and non-reflective "Den" glass are added to complete the work.



Live-in Security at 401



Mary Sutherland and Sam Kump

What a find! A couple with a background in health, safety, security and art(!) took up residence at 401 Richmond just two months ago. We count ourselves lucky.

Sam Kump and Mary Sutherland originate from Alberta (he from Calgary and she from Red Deer). They met four years ago in Edmonton and came to Toronto in 1993. Mary was already familiar with the city having been here previously for a short term as a nurse's aide with The Hospital for Sick Children. After receiving her R.N. back in Edmonton, she reapplied to Sick Kids and found a position in Medical

Specialties (e.g., liver disease, chest medicine, rheumatology, gastro-intestinal disorders, etc.). Sam, on the other hand, is an artist: "I was drawing since I could hold a pencil," he says. A student at the Ontario College of Art, he is currently in his second year focussing on sculpture and new media.

Sam has added talents of import to 401: he is experienced in renovations and furniture building. His father was the manager of a lumber yard, so he picked up several tips while working with him part-time. Later, he sold parts for a machine shop and helped construct a night club in Edmonton.

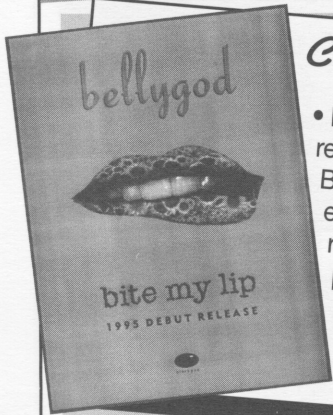
"This place is perfect for us," says Mary. "Sam needed a studio to work in, and we needed a place to live but couldn't afford a large enough space for both. Now, I can walk to work and Sam is minutes away from OCA." Adds Sam, "I always liked the building and the warehouse design. A few months ago, I stopped by to pick up some newsletters and heard that management was looking for someone as live-in security. The situation was ideal."

Sam and Mary are responsible for the building on nights and weekends when they take over from Mike Moody, the Building Manager. With his trusty Bouvier, Suki, Sam does rounds throughout the night. He handles emergencies, answers maintenance calls and looks after minor repairs where necessary. Sam and Mary can be reached at (416) 245-5544 with I.D.# 99587.

"We've lived in many apartment buildings and never met our neighbours," says Mary. "Here it's different. There's an open and friendly community atmosphere, and we feel we fit in."

bulletin

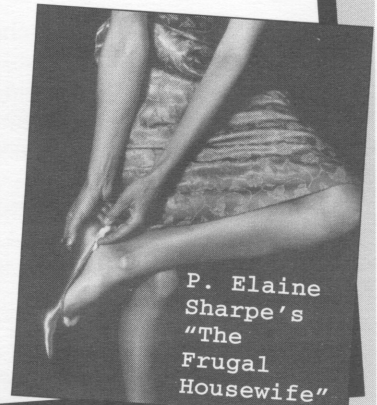
A regular feature of 401 UPDATE, the Bulletin Board is your opportunity to communicate with other tenants and keep them in touch with what is happening in your organization. If you are having a sale or exhibition, or just want to tell others about your product/service, simply supply Lesley Soden in the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



Congratulations

• **Bellygod** and their independent record label: black pea (Studio B99) released a debut c.d. entitled "bite my lip" to rave reviews. Bellygod recently performed at the Metro Convention Centre, HMV Instore on Yonge, and The Rivoli.

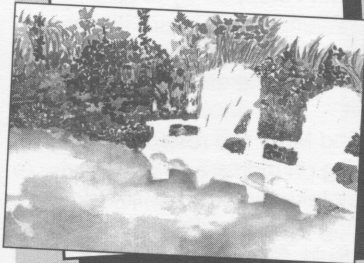
• New tenant **P. Elaine Sharpe's** (Studio 357) photography was exhibited recently as part of a group show at the Ontario College of Art (OCA). One of her images also appeared on the front page of the Globe and Mail (!), and her work will be featured in the May and June issues of Chatelaine.



P. Elaine Sharpe's
"The Frugal Housewife"

Islands of Summer

Artist **Judi Frost's** (Studio 122) recent watercolours and fantasy furniture are on display at the Here and Now Gallery located at 527 Parliament Street between March 29 and April 19.



Open House

The Centre for Indigenous Theatre is pleased to announce its new home at 401 Richmond. A non-profit Aboriginal theatre organization, CIT provides training and performance opportunities. Formerly known as The Native Theatre School, CIT is a year-round professional company which offers "Four Season Artistic Programming" in support of developmental work in Native performance culture. The organization elaborates a contemporary performance style rooted in Aboriginal principles of the past. Entering its 20th season of implementing an eight-week Native theatre school, CIT has played a vital role in the growth and development of Native Theatre across Canada. CIT would like to extend an invitation to their 401 neighbours to drop by their new office at Studio 260 on Friday, April 7, 1995 from 10:00 am - 7:00 pm. CIT can be reached at (416) 506-9436 and fax (416) 506-9430.

Office Warming

Camping Out Centre for Learning (Studio B174), a recreation programme for youth dealing with issues of sexual orientation, is having an Open House on Tuesday, April 11, 1995 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm. (Office warming gifts will be gratefully received.)

LIVE YOUR PAST
WATCH
MEET YOUR FUTURE

Client side meets Student side
at
Watch Magazine's
Open House

April 7th, 4 - 8 pm
401 Richmond St. W., Studio 251

U.S.R.P. FOR YOU AND A GREET BY APRIL 5th
(416) 595-5900 ext. 245



Published by 401 Richmond Ltd.

401 Richmond St. W., Suite 204, Toronto, Ontario M5V 1X3
Telephone: (416) 595-5900 Fax: (416) 595-5904

Editor
Lesley Soden
(Suite 204)

Design
LaserSet Graphics
(Suite 123)

Printer
Rite Printing
(Suite 109)

Printed on recycled paper