

OPENING

Thursday 20 May 1999 at 8 p.m.

CONTINUING

through 12 June 1999

Breathing Room
an installation
by Karen Trask



fifty

Giving Ideas Latitude

Latitude 53 Society of Artists

10137 104 street

free admission

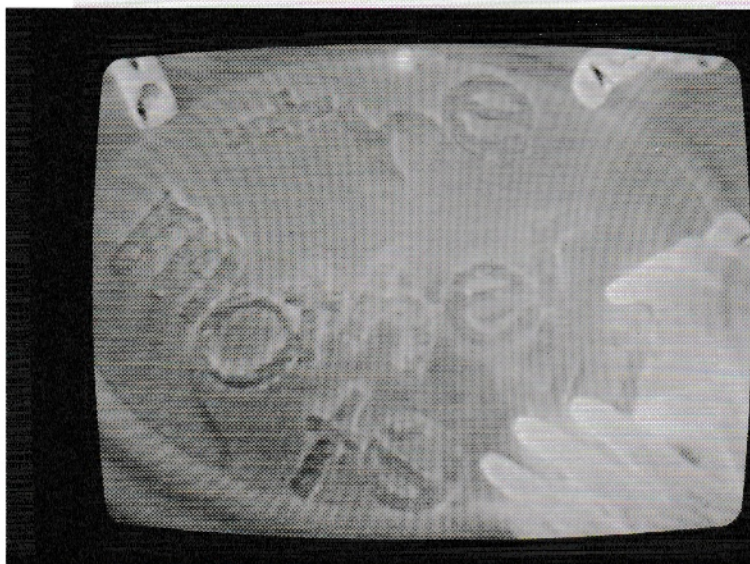
Latitude hours 10 - 6 Tuesday to Friday 11 - 5 Saturday

BY BEAU COLEMAN

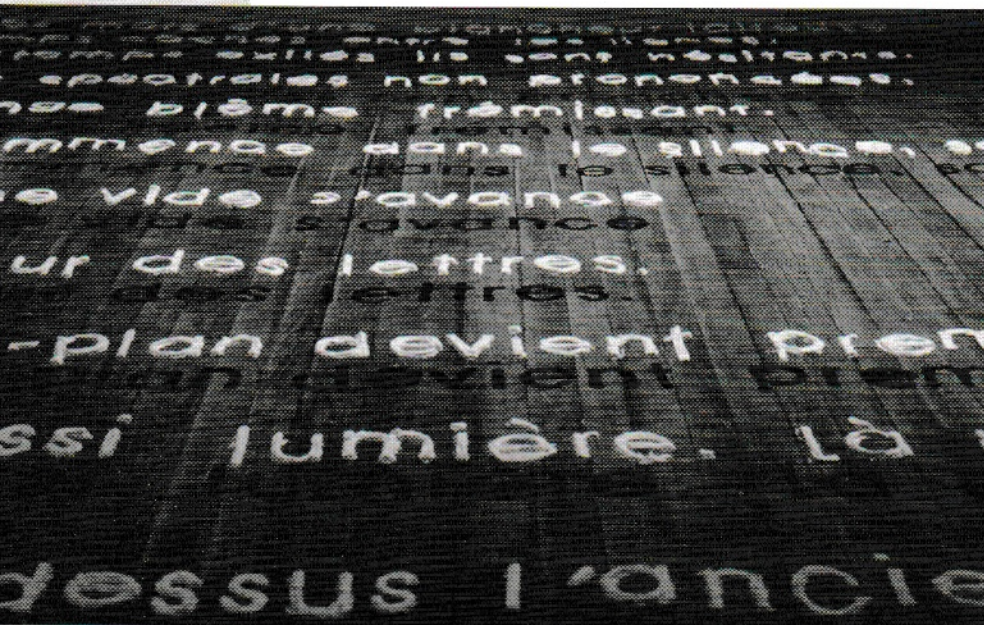
It's that time of year again ... Mother's Day. The time of year when we rush to the card shop down the street and purchase words to express our gratitude for the person who gave us life ... gave us breath. All for \$2.95 CDN and a 46 cent stamp.

Breathing Room: The Poetics of Space

1



THE OTHER DAY, I was in such a shop. As I glanced through the many Hallmark cards displayed, I was struck by how our society envisions the Mother. Card after card read "you put others' needs before your own", "your selfless love" and "you sacrificed your dreams in order to support mine." (Hallmark) Is this why we celebrate and cherish in our mothers? This absence of a person? Our mothers gave birth to us. **Our mothers who gave us life ... gave us breath.**



THE BOND BETWEEN a mother and child is unspeakably tangible. Its memory resides in our bodies. Its memory resides in our eyes ... and yet we see the world differently from our mothers. It is this difference which is to be celebrated. This miracle of giving birth to a new set of eyes.

KAREN TRASK'S exhibition *Breathing Room* is such a celebration. It is a living tribute to motherhood which encompasses timeless space.

THE FOUR SCULPTURAL WORKS (artist book, video projection, video sculpture and poetry installation) make present the mother she does not remember. Words fill the gallery with images, caresses and whispers. They are the images, caresses and whispers of a mother to a daughter and a daughter to a mother. Perhaps they even speak to the "mother" which resides in each of us. The part of ourselves which nourishes our existence.

AS ONE WALKS through the exhibition it is as though time, for a moment, stands still. Only breath is heard. As breath is taken in, so too is the artist's expressed desire for communication. As breath is released, so too are our own images and memories, forever changing the space it surrounds. Trask invites the viewer to read between the lines; between the breaths.

BREATHING ROOM is also a mediation on "relational space." The space between "confrontation and communication between two people, between two surfaces between a dream and a daily life, between here and there, then and now..." (Trask)

THE SPACE CREATED is a four dimensional poetic narrative. Word upon word is placed silently on the walls, floor, eyes, and ears. Each word makes present the reality from which the artist came ... not only as a memory but as a living interaction between mother, daughter; between viewer and artist.

BEAU COLEMAN is performance and installation artist. She has exhibited internationally and is currently on faculty at the University of Alberta.

LIST OF WORKS IN EXHIBIT

Intersection-conjunctions, artist book, 23 cm x 18 cm, 1997

Motherwall, video projection, 10 ft. x 15 ft., 1997

No-words, poetry installation, 200 cm x 200 cm, 1997

Mothertext, video sculpture, 1998

PHOTOS

1 + 2 Untitled, cast paper, handmade paper couched directly on wall, pins, 200 cm x 200 cm, 1997

COVER Mothertext, video sculpture, 1998



LATITUDE 53 Latitude 53 Society of Artists receives the financial support of The Canada Council for the Arts, The City of Edmonton, through the Edmonton Arts Council, The Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Heritage Canada and the donated services and energies of our members and of the community.

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