

Susan Collett breathes life into delicate sculptural forms

Owen Sound, Ontario – From September 19 to November 16, 2008, Tom Thomson Art Gallery presents *Traverse*, an exhibition of clay sculptures and prints by Susan Collett. All are welcome to join us for the opening reception for the show on Wednesday, September 24 at 7 pm. The artist will give a walking tour of the exhibition.



Winning the Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics in 2003 allowed ceramic artist Susan Collett to study in Jingdezhen, China, the centre for porcelain production for many centuries. The unique Chinese landscape, its multi-tiered tea farming, layered tile rooftops and willowing bamboo forests inspired her. The artist began working with earthenware paper clay. Constructing large sculptural vessels she has named the Moiré Series. The delicate works are highly perforated, allowing light to inhabit the interior, illuminating their subtle exterior colouring. The artist writes: "As in the flux of nature's growth and decay, I want the movement and undulating form of the Moiré suite to reflect the continuum of life. I am interested in the dichotomy of strength versus fragility, the movement of the light and the clay and point to this in the pierced and punctured forms." This exhibition also includes a selection of monoprints printed from stitched copper sheeting depicting organic forms and patterns akin to the sculptures.

Free public tours of the exhibition will be offered on Sunday, September 21 and October 19 at 2 pm. This exhibition is sponsored in Owen Sound by G.M. Diemert Architect Inc., Best Western Inn on the Bay and The Sun Times.

For more information on contemporary art at the Tom Thomson Art Gallery, visit www.tomthomson.org

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[image: Susan Collett, *Vespiary Solo*, 2006, Earthenware Paper Clay, 101 x 45 x 43 cm, Courtesy of the Artist]

For interviews or photographs, please contact: Stuart Reid, Director/Curator

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