



Sun, moon, land and water highlighted at The Tree Museum

Andrew Wagner-Chazalon

September 1, 2010

GRAVENHURST — The movement of the sun and the earth is something we all take for granted. Other than noticing the shortening days in the autumn, most of us give it little attention.

But not Trish Roan. The Australian artist is fascinated by natural phenomena. In particular, she enjoys processes that go on, often unobserved or unremarked.

Her piece being unveiled this weekend at The Tree Museum draws attention to one of those: the rotation of the earth.

It consists of a series of mirrors mounted to trees, all aimed at a rock face. As the sun rises in the sky, the mirrors reflect the sunlight onto the rock, the reflections growing closer together as the sun gets higher. At the moment the sun is directly overhead (currently around 1:15 p.m.) the reflections come together in a perfect circle on the rock face.

The effect only lasts for a moment, and then the circle begins to break apart.

"I've always been interested in this idea of wholeness, but a very fragile sense of wholeness," said Roan.

"It's a very fleeting thing, because everything's constantly changing and in flux. There are just moments when everything comes together, and then it's gone."

At the same time, she said, the wholeness is enduring: that moment will return again the next day, and the day after. And it will continue regardless of whether people are there to observe it or not.

Roan is one of four artists unveiling new work at The Tree Museum this weekend. There will also be pieces by fellow Australian Bev Hogg, and Canadians Penelope Stewart and Jeannie Thib.



FOCUSING. Artist Trish Roan has been working for several weeks to design and perfect an installation at The Tree Museum in Gravenhurst. The work, which uses a series of mirrors to capture the sun's rays, will be unveiled this weekend when the museum on Doe Lake Road holds its annual exhibition opening. *Photo by Andrew Wagner-Chazalon*

All four artists, along with Tree Museum co-curators Anne O'Callaghan and EJ Lightman are taking part in a multi-year collaboration between The Tree Museum and several arts and natural history groups based in the Australian capital, Canberra. The Canadians travelled to Australia to study, create and teach before hosting the Australians.

The show, titled *afterLandscape*, consists of works that examine how we are shaped by our landscape, and shape it in turn. The profound differences between the Canadian and the Australian landscapes have offered rich source material for the artists.

Located in a 200-acre site on Doe Lake Road in Gravenhurst, The Tree Museum is a unique space. Unlike a sculpture garden, where works are typically created in a studio then placed in a manicured garden, most of the works in The Tree Museum have been made on-site, and reflect the artists' responses to the wild landscape around them. The work is challenging, sometime provocative and entertaining.

This year's exhibit officially opens on Sunday, Sept. 5 from noon to 5 p.m. The museum is open year-round, and admission is free. Walking shoes are advisable: the parking lot is located one kilometre from the nearest works, and 2.2 km from the farthest ones. There are no facilities on site.

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