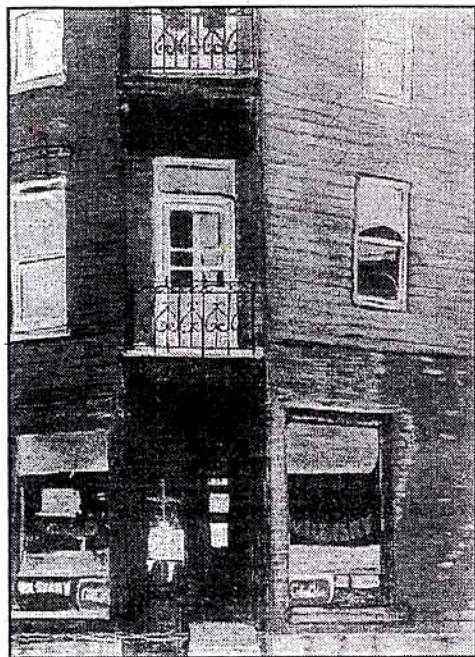


Artists offer diverse takes on visual biography

Marilynn Vanderstay

Two Westmount artists have each created exhibitions that are biographical in theme, but are totally different in style.

Evelyn Gold's current exhibition at the Mount Stephen Club, entitled 'I Have Often Walked On That Street Before,' features a collection of oil pastels of buildings she has lived in or frequented in her life. The paint-



Gold's pastel of Wilensky's

ings tell the story of her westward voyage in Montreal, moving from her Polish immigrant roots on St. Urbain Street to being an artist and the wife of a doctor, now living on The Boulevard.

The paintings capture not only the images of the houses, but also the memories. A painting of Wilensky's called 'Cherry Drink' recollects the memory of special treats with her father. 'The Golden Years' remembers the house where Gold raised her children. 'The Big Apple' features the house she and her husband lived in when he was going to medical school in New York City.

The detailed realistic works hang as a biography of Gold's life, but are also a visu-

al history of known buildings in Montreal. Schwartz's Deli is there, and so are the original 1821 front doors of the Montreal General Hospital.

"The collection is really like a walk down memory lane," said Gold. "I couldn't sell any of them until I saw them hanging together as a group."

Brisson documents husband Dyens

'Traces and Transparence' features 15 large hologram and mixed media installations by artist Carole Brisson, who has also taken the theme of biography—but has applied it to the life of her husband, Westmount artist Georges Dyens.

Brisson created the innovative 'visual biography' to document Dyens's story. Working from right to left, she used drawings, symbolic personal mementos, including a button and a letter written by his mother, and photographs from childhood to the present in visual form her husband's life. The result is effective both as art and as a legacy.

"A biography is a personal thing," says Brisson. "Not everyone can write or have written their own biography. But a visual biography can be commissioned by anyone and can be handed down through generations, a powerful and poetic history of one human being."

Alongside the biography, Brisson is also exhibiting 14 holographic installations that feature the story of Pompeii. The art works are composed of layers of transparent acrylic sheets over which the artist painted with oil pastels images reproduced by photocopier.

Brisson has enhanced the images with handmade paper layers. Finally she has added to each painting a new medium, holographic luminous three dimensional representations which she created using laser technology. The viewer literally participates in the exhibition by having to move around the work to discover the hologram.

Evelyn Gold's exhibition continues at the Mount Stephen Club, 1440 Drummond St., through Monday, Dec. 9.

Carole Brisson's exhibition continues at the Belgo Building, 372 Ste. Catherine St. W., Suite 306, through Sunday, Dec. 8.