

Lori Segall Burnett at R.J.P. Dawson Library

Finding the unusual in the usual

ALEXIS
BELANGER-CHAMPAGNE

Until December 4th, the R.J.P. Dawson Library is exhibiting pictures from Lori Segall Burnett. Ms. Burnett is a local photographer who is also currently the president of the Table ronde sur l'art de Mont-Royal (TRAM), an organization trying to promote artists from Mount Royal.

It is the first solo exhibition of Ms. Burnett artistic career. She hopes that it is a step towards bigger things. "Photography has always been part of my life, she says. It started as a hobby and about ten years ago I started to have more free time and traveling opportunities and I began to take it more seriously." Since then, she's earned degrees from various art and photography institutes such as the New York Institute of Photography, the Saidye Bronfman Centre and the Stewart Hall.

She doesn't necessarily have a favourite topic for her pictures, but she likes to look for the unusual things. "Most of the time if I take a guided tour in some places, you will see the group with the guide and I'll be somewhere around looking at different thing and taking pictures of things that people don't see or notice," explains Ms. Burnett.

Therefore, she won't mind being in the nature or in an urban area since there is always something unusual to capture. "Sometimes, you take a picture and it just captures something that won't be the same in a year, that will be different in a week, that's the kind of thing I'm trying to get in my pictures".

Ms. Burnett has been to many different places around the planet. She's been to Africa, Italy, Mexico, the United States, the Caribbeans and so on. "Traveling has become part of what I need to do for my career in photography, admits Ms. Burnett. My camera is my best friend when I travel."

The current exhibition at the J.P. Dawson Library consists mostly of pictures she took during a workshop in Santa Fe in New Mexico. "They would bring us somewhere and the group would split up to take pictures, explains Ms. Burnett. Afterwards, we would gather and look at the pictures everyone took and critic them. It was very

interesting to see what caught the eye of the different photographs". In Ms. Burnett's case, you will see both natural landscapes and urban pictures. "I try to look at the angles, the light, the textures, the shadows. That's what will interest me. I also like the nostalgia in things and Santa Fe was great for that. There were a lot of things that didn't seem to have changed since the 60s."

In Montreal, Ms. Burnett likes to look at the small streets in the eastern part of the town. "It is really mixed up over there and you could see old things with new things and there are a lot of different cultures. Although, I've notice that some times, I take pictures of different things in the same place, but I'll also take pictures of the same thing in different places".

Raising awareness about TRAM

Currently the president of TRAM, one of the main goals of Ms. Burnett is to get younger people involved in the organization. "TRAM gave me the opportunity to exhibit my work and I hope that it could do it for young artists. During our last Art Show in October, a lot of young artists came to see the exhibition and were asking about the membership. They must realize that we offer a great opportunity to network with other local artists and to promote what they do". For more information about TRAM you can call at (514) 341-5973

Résumé

Des photos de Lori Segall Burnett sont exposées à la Bibliothèque R.J.P. Dawson jusqu'au 4 décembre. Cette artiste de Mont-Royal est également la présidente de la Table ronde sur l'art de Mont-Royal (TRAM), l'organisme qui a pour but de promouvoir les artistes de la ville. Pour Mme Burnett, la photo a d'abord été un hobby, mais, depuis une dizaine d'années, ses temps libres et ses opportunités de voyage lui ont permis de développer son art, qui est devenu sa principale occupation. Dans une photo, elle cherche à capter quelque chose d'inhabituel, d'insolite. Elle adore aussi observer les jeux de lumières et d'ombres, les angles dans l'architecture, et aime bien capter des images représentant la nostalgie du passé.