



Teresa Piruzza, MPP
Windsor West

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Artcite exhibit examines the world inside



Nowhereness by Margie Kelk at Artcite » Photo Jay Verspeelt

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Natasha Marar

March 11, 2014

Toronto-based visual artist Margie Kelk is exhibiting for the first time in Windsor in 24 years.

Kelk's *Nowhere* installation, which opened at Artcite Inc. last Friday, focuses on pain and alienation experienced by elderly adults in relation to social

networking sites. She uses miniature ceramic heads with distorted faces to exemplify technology users. The faces show sadness, confusion and surprise, and are often placed inside their homes or electronic devices, looking out at the world.

Kelk said a lack of stimulation for the elderly adults in her life prompted her to create the exhibit. "Even though there's so much going with virtual connections today ... they don't understand it, and they don't trust it."

For Kelk, technology is useful for connecting people, but she finds it also leads to isolation. Using the example of friends chatting on their mobile devices while riding a bus together, she remarked, "There's always a 16th person in every conversation, but you're not talking to each other. The actual verbal communication is actually less."

Nowhere, which was first displayed in Toronto in 2012, makes use of ceramic, wood, paint and plexiglass. Kelk has made over 200 ceramic heads, each one taking about 30 minutes each to create.

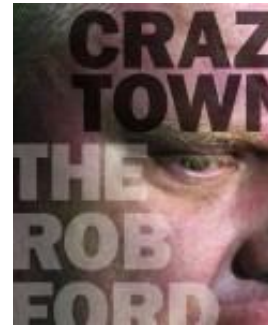
While the faces appear detached from the larger culture, and each other, Kelk wants to evoke ideas hope and promise of connections through the ceramic sculptures.

Nowhere is on exhibit at Artcite until April 19.

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