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## SAAG's Screen & Decor exhibit encourages thought



By Zentner, Caroline on September 28, 2013.

Caroline Zentner

lethbridge herald

zentner@lethbridgeherald.com

Two new exhibits opening today at the Southern Alberta Art Gallery will give viewers the chance to pause and think.

Toronto-based curator Rosemary Heather worked with several exhibition designers on the Screen & DZcor exhibit.

"We invited six artists to participate in this show," she said.

The exhibition consists of two parts, the artists' works and the screens. The screens are plexiglass panels in various colours.

"What the screens do is allow you to look at the exhibition from different vantage points. It makes it very active for the viewer," Heather said. "All the colours selected relate to Photoshop, the software."

Many artists use the computer as a compositional tool and the exhibit tries to make that apparent with the use of the screens, which give viewers an idea of what the artwork might look like on the computer screen.

"Instead of looking for digital art, we're saying 'Oh, digital art exists but it actually exists in analog form,'" Heather said. "It's kind of a fusion between real space and digital space."

One of the works by Sanaz Mazinani, a Persian Canadian now living in San Francisco, is a political statement, although from far away it looks more like a traditional Muslim form of decoration.

"If we go up close we'll see that all the particular units of the composition are composed of things taken from the Internet but specifically there's a political subtext," Heather said.

The upstairs gallery features sculptures by Monika Sosnowska, a Polish artist.

"All of these pieces are sculptures that are reminiscent of broken market-vendor stands in the Jarmark Europa Stadium," said Nicole Hembroff, communications co-ordinator with the SAAG. "After the fall of communism it became this marketplace where they sold everything from knock-off Nikes to CDs and DVDs that were pirated."

The stadium was torn down to make way for a new one for the 2012 UEFA European Football championship. Sosnowska's untitled sculptures seem to capture the bones of building elements during the tear-down phase.

The exhibits open to the public at 8 p.m. today. Both exhibits will be in place until Nov. 24.



Curator Rosemary Heather, left, and Nicole Hembroff look over plans for the installation of the Screen and Decor exhibition that opens at the SAAG today. Herald photo by David Rossiter



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