

art



Trip Tics

Taking journeys at a new gallery

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Seeking to spark the emotional and intellectual participation of viewers, three floors of exhibition space at Carnegie Mellon University's new Regina Gouger Miller Gallery will offer cutting-edge explorations of art, architecture and design. Sleek benches by designer Martin Prekop are resting places for visitors contemplating works. The inaugural shows are about journeys, some actual, some imaginary, some caught in the ambiguity between the two.

The first floor holds a video installation of *Living Documentaries* by Termite TV, a Philadelphia-based artists' collective. It takes spectators along on a five-month adventure crossing the United States in a 1960s school bus to investigate the character and concerns of different regions and to gather a multitude of life

Living Documentaries, Conversations in the Rustbelt: Brownfields into Greenways, and *swells and extensions* continue through March 3 at the Regina Gouger Miller Gallery, Purnell Center for the Arts, Carnegie Mellon University, Oakland, 268-3618.

stories told in five-minute segments. Shot and edited en route with collaborative input from local media makers, residents and other travelers, the series tackles matters of personal and societal interest. Subjects ramble down roads of forgotten cities, exploring unsung heroes, space, race, mortality, family, relativity, beauty, welfare, health, jobs, age, violence, music, television itself and more. Side trips lead to urban angst, weird habits, censored cartoons, mass hallucinations, superfreak virgins and other diversions. A broad spectrum of people is interviewed against the varied American landscape, musing about their philosophies, passions, sorrows and dreams with gritty candor. These narratives will also be aired by Free Speech TV on cable stations across the country. Journal notes by the collective's members on their website (www.termite.org) allow viewers to join their wanderings, pick up on details like tips for better living coming through the car radio ("Work like you don't need the money, love like you've never been hurt, and dance like nobody's

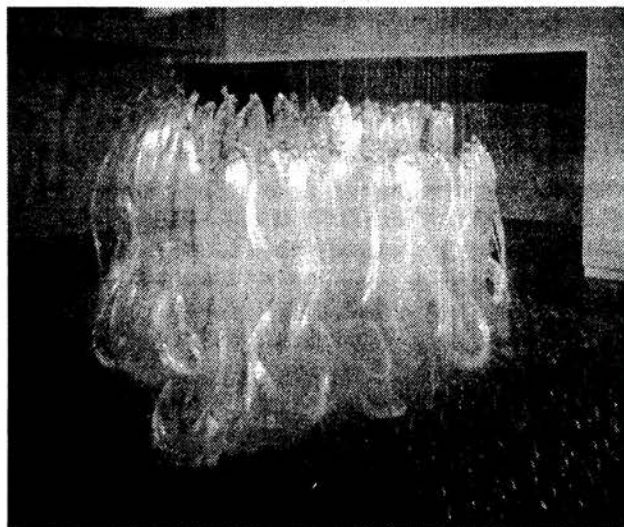
watching"). A group lecture is held at 5 p.m. Thu., March 2, at McConomy Auditorium in the University Center.

Nine Mile Run, an historic stream valley in the East End, became a dumping ground for steel mills' waste products. In 1996, after those industrial locusts vanished with the changing winds of time, the property was targeted for restoration as a new community and extension of a major park by the City of Pittsburgh. The area became a case study for researchers at CMU's STUDIO for Creative Inquiry. Efforts to reclaim and protect Nine Mile Run's ecological balance and to invite citizen participation through recreation, education and art are tracked in a display on the gallery's second floor. A discussion linked to this exhibition will occur at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 29 in the gallery.

New York City artist Sharon Loudon translates a language of physical sensation originating in human gesture into installations of suggestive pleasures. Her figure drawings become vehicles for improvisation, serving as source materials—field recordings that are remixed to suit future inventions. Deconstructed to

lines, they take on the simplicity and emotional power of dance-dramas frozen in mid-air. Fused into sculptural materials, they metamorphose into creatures that conjure delicate oppositions of motion and stasis.

Her piece *swells and extensions* fills the gallery's third floor. Tangles of luminous monofilaments shift in appearance with lightning that rises and fades at regular intervals. A quivering, shimmering environment seemingly sculpted from clouds casts intricate shadows through the room. With darkness, a weightless calm spreads over the scene, carrying a sense of fireflies poured over an open field. These intermittent transformations keep pace with internal rhythms, effortlessly transporting audiences into the turf of Loudon's ecstatic visions. **SP**



From Sharon Loudon's *swells and extensions*