

Incite Insight

Design group joins forces for exhibition

Shannon Boklaschuk
Saskatoon Express

The latest Saskatchewan Craft Council (SCC) exhibition evolved from two years of interaction and feedback among a group of artists.

The exhibition, entitled *Incite Insight*, showcases the work of members of the 330 Design Group. The group includes six artists — M. Craig Campbell, Paula Cooley, James Korpan, Daryl Richardson, Ken Wilkinson and Lee Baker — who work with a variety of materials, such as soapstone, metal, wood and ceramics.

Baker, a soapstone and wood carver and the curator of the exhibition, said the artists set a goal of displaying their work at the SCC. *Incite Insight* is a culmination of two years of dialogue among the group members.

"We've been working together as a group for that time period, and it was a good fit right from the beginning," he said.

"There seems to be a real strong cooperative spirit amongst all the artists, and they don't mind sharing ideas. Everybody feels very safe in critiques and things like that."

The 330 Design Group derived its name from a shared studio at 330 Avenue G South, in the basement area of a former Ukrainian church. While the artists have their own studios as well — for example, there's no welding or blacksmith work taking place at the Avenue G space — the shared studio serves as a gallery and an open workshop, said Baker.

"We use that location for a lot of our meetings, if we're not visiting each other's studios," he said.

"It's really been fixed up nicely."

Baker said the exhibition includes more than 30 pieces and highlights new directions in the artists' work. Working with each other helped the artists improve their work and has enhanced his own creative process, Baker said.

"I was sort of in one of those plateaus where I wasn't getting much work done, and



Artist: Paula Cooley Title: The Musicians

just the idea of having to have something ready for the show got me going," he said.

"We take turns going to each other's studio, visiting and talking about things and bringing in ideas. I just found it very stimulating and thought provoking, so it's been a good experience."

Baker said the process of how the art was created is integral to the show, and the title of the exhibition "really relates to how we arrived at our product.

"By discussing and having insight, we got further insight into what we were doing. So we were finding our way as a group rather than just as solo artists. I think there's a real strength in our show that way. In fact, during our artists' talk, somebody said, 'Have you thought about adding more members?' Everybody said, 'Well, there's kind of a magic happening right now.' You kind of don't want to break it up."

Incite Insight will be on display at the SCC's Affinity Gallery until April 21. The gallery is located at 813 Broadway Ave. and is open daily from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, go online to saskcraftcouncil.org.