



CONTINUOUS

MONIQUE MARTIN

Continuous, Installation Okotoks Art Gallery, 2015
Ink on Mulberry paper, multi block linocut, Photo credit: Monique Martin

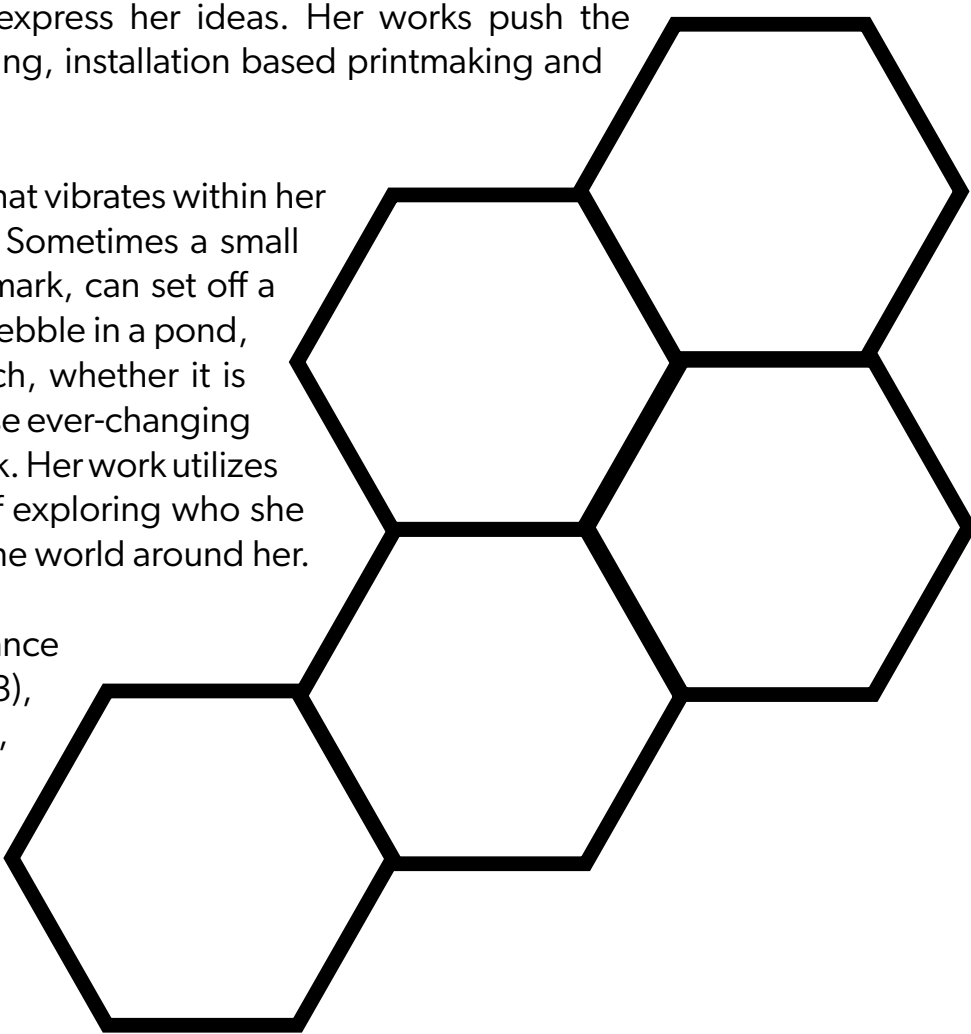
Artist Bio

Monique is a multi-disciplinary artist from Saskatoon, Canada. She has exhibited her artwork in more than 260 significant solo, invited and juried group exhibitions in ten countries. More than 50 of these were solo exhibitions in public galleries. Renowned international curators have selected her artwork for various exhibitions worldwide. Her works are held in more than forty-four public and private collections in ten different countries.

Her work often uses significant symbols or comments on contemporary social issues. Monique creates bodies of work rather than individual pieces and focuses on specific concepts, she undertakes extensive research prior to creating her work, often incorporating historically significant symbols and images to express her ideas. Her works push the boundaries of standard printmaking: enormous scale printmaking, installation based printmaking and working with three dimensions in printmaking.

Every action, interaction, and observation produces an energy that vibrates within her and connects her to the people with whom she is in contact. Sometimes a small incident, a promise only half-intended, a touch, or a casual remark, can set off a chain of events that will alter lives and change destinies. Like a pebble in a pond, the rings of energy keep moving outward from the initial touch, whether it is physical, emotional, spiritual or mental. It is in responding to these ever-changing ripples in the connections between humans that inspires her work. Her work utilizes everchanging concepts and images because her art is a way of exploring who she is, who she was, who she is becoming, and where she fits into the world around her.

Monique was Artist-in-Residence for Disneyland Paris, Paris, France (2013), the Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan Festival (2013), the Saskatchewan Children's Festival (2012), Bytown Museum, Ottawa, Canada (2010), Spalding, United Kingdom (2008), Nice, France (2006), Vallauris, France (2006), Mount Vernon, USA (2004), Wynyard, Tasmania, Australia (2003) and Coaticook, QC, Canada (2001).

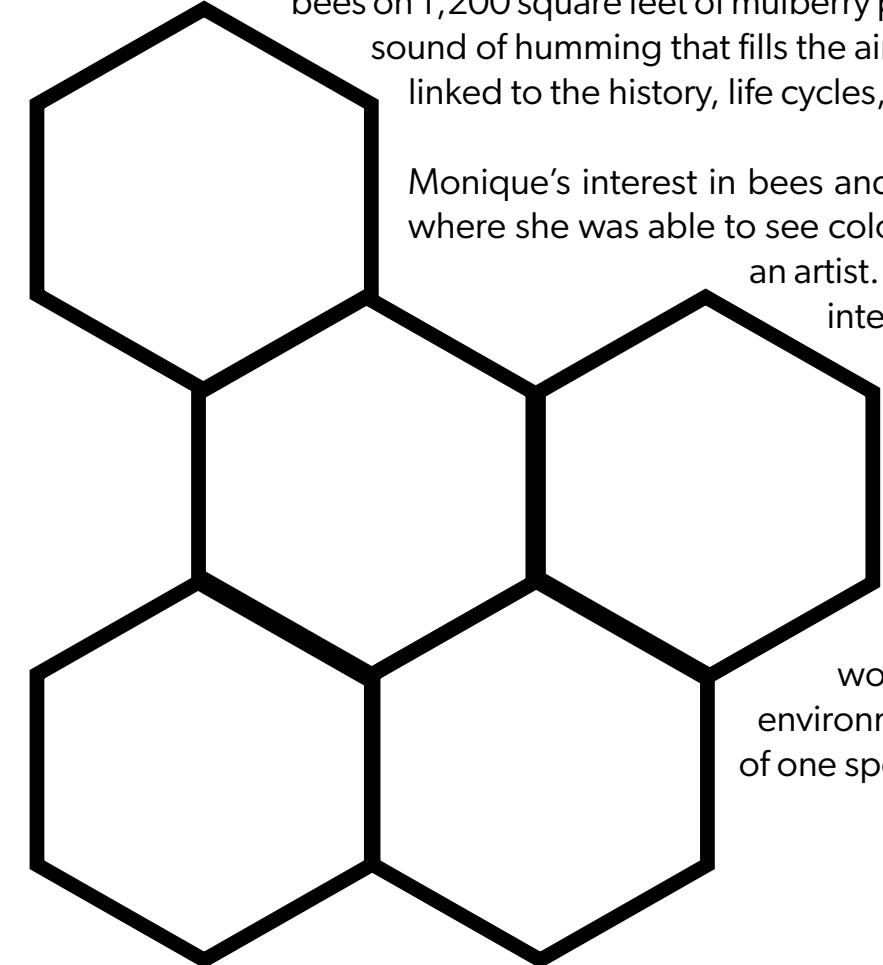


Continuous, Detail of panel, 2016
Ink on Mulberry paper, multi block linocut, Photo credit: Len Thomas

EXHIBITION STATEMENT

Life is a continuous cycle of growing and changing. Nothing is static. There is, however a commonality amongst animals and insects to produce enough offspring to continue the species and combat the changes in the environment. Bees coalesce in the hive forming a unified machine that can withstand almost everything, even human intervention. The plight of the bee is the reason for the creation of this immersive installation that takes you into the life of the bee.

Continuous must be experienced. *Continuous* is a multi-sensory art installation augmented by the scent of beeswax and the sound of buzzing bees that comments on the steady decline in honeybee populations and the devastating effects of their collapsed colonies. Your eyes are drawn to the floor-to-ceiling linocut prints consisting of 45,000 hexagons, and approximately 3,000 bees on 1,200 square feet of mulberry paper. Your other senses are engaged by the scent of beeswax and the sound of humming that fills the air. Walking through this paper beehive encourages you to see yourself linked to the history, life cycles, and health of bees.



Monique's interest in bees and the human relationship to them began during a residency in Paris, where she was able to see colony collapse in person. This experience changed her as a person and an artist. Monique spent a year researching the patterns and lifecycles of bees, interacting with hives and learning from beekeepers. Her large intricate prints show an intimate understanding of hives in various states of health, reminding us of the need to address the deterioration of bee communities and how this reflects human environmental impact.

We are all linked through relationships, the environment, our community and our past experiences. The hexagons are viewed as a symbol of this linkage to the environment and to others all over the world. Covid has shown us how closely linked we are as humans. The environment and the human world functions in an absolute way so that the loss of one species creates a cacophony of change throughout the world.

The artist would like to acknowledge the generous support of the Saskatchewan Arts Board in receiving an Independent Artist Grant



Continuous, Installation, Installation at Elsie Scherle Art Gallery Last Mountain Lake, 2019
Ink on Mulberry paper, multi block linocut, Photo credit: Len Thomas