

Exhibition joins art with science

The transplant theme ensured a connection with local surgeons.

BY KATHY RUMLESKI
Free Press Arts
& Entertainment Reporter

An innovative art exhibition that has transplantation as its theme combines science and art in a weekend that includes a poetry reading, lecture and art/poetry workshop. The free, three-day event called *Moving On: Body/Parts to Poet/ry* is offered by the Centre for Creativity at King's University College in partnership with the transplant unit at London Health Sciences Centre.

Curator Gloria Alvernaz Mulcahy said metaphors con-

nect us to our experience of the body and we use art to explain and understand our experience.

Alvernaz Mulcahy is a member of the League of Canadian Poets and recruited fellow member Terry Ann Carter of Ottawa to participate in the event.

Carter, who wrote a book of poetry called *Transplanted* (Borealis Press, 2006) will lead the reading on Friday and help with the Saturday workshop, which is from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

"She'll create experiences where people can talk about — through using metaphor — giving and receiving. That's all part of the transplant process," Alvernaz Mulcahy said.

London art therapist Lydia Clapton will help conduct the art/poetry workshop.

On Friday night, Robert Butcher, an expert in biomedical ethics, will discuss the issue of human organ transplantation.

Alvernaz Mulcahy said it's important to study the multiple ways we try to understand

our bodies, who we are in our world and the culture that we live in. One of those ways is through science. The curator thought it pertinent to include a scientist in the program.

"I've always looked at art as . . . another mode of expression that is a creative process very much like science," she said.

Artists whose work is in the exhibit include Londoners William Johnson, Maureen Riley and Catherine Simpson, whose sister had a liver transplant, and Claudia Coutu Radmore of Ottawa.

Johnson is the designer of the national donor recognition medal.

William Wall, director of LHSC's multi-organ transplant program, will provide a sketch for the exhibit.

"This is another interesting part in terms of surgeons doing artwork. It really tells you that connection between wanting to transform your experience into the visual as well as into words."

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MIKE HENSEN The London Free Press

METAPHOR: Gloria Alvernaz Mulcahy, curator for the Centre for Creativity at King's University College, leans next to a poster for *Moving On: Body/Parts to Poet/ry*, an art exhibition at King's about transplants.