

Solo exhibit explores the self-taught artist

Evolution of a Sculptor on display at the Université Sainte-Anne in Church Point

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A self-taught artist is the focus of a two-month solo exhibit at the Université Sainte-Anne in Church Point.

The Conseil des arts de la Baie arts council is hosting Evolution of a Sculptor with works by Meteghan River multimedia sculptor Kevin Comeau at the Le Trécarré Art Gallery.

The collection demonstrates Comeau's own evolution as an emerging artist over the past 20 years with the craft he has taught himself, with different media, techniques and tools.

"I started sculpting in my early 30s, mostly because of health reasons. I didn't think I had any artistic talent but one day I tried sculpting and everyone's reaction was extremely positive, so I kept at it," Comeau says in his artist's statement.

The show includes never-before-seen creations, newly com-



Left: A clay bust entitled Parrsboro Man, on display at the Trécarré Art Gallery until the end of October. Right: Sculptor Kevin P. Comeau peers into the 'soul' of his clay bust.

pleted sculptures and popular pieces from wood, steel, soap stone, plaster and clay, including Bay of Fundy clay.

He attributes his ability to his background in construction, steelwork, carpentry and as a millwright.

"The medium in my hands comes to life as I work it."

Inspired by nature and wildlife, which are the subject of several works such as Eagle and Salmon, Mother and Cub, the Acadian sculptor demonstrates his strong ties to his Métis roots.

What lies underneath the surface of his clay busts is a passion for people.

"I sculpt a variety of subjects — mostly people, mythological characters and animals. Their faces and bodies intrigue me. I also have an interest in realism and

I'm attracted to the anatomic elements of the body . . . I focus on exact proportions, intricate details and the symmetry of what I am creating.

"My new 'adventure' with clay will be one of the focal points of this show, highlighting my portraiture clay busts," said Comeau, who says his personal quest is to overcome the stereotypes associated with his culture and redefine what it means to be an Acadian artist.

This summer Comeau started an apprenticeship with artist-sculptor Carolyn Ritchie Bedford, who owns her own foundry, with the help of Arts Nova Scotia funding.

"To me it's a dream come true to learn the bronzing process, new sculpting techniques and fine-tune some of my self-taught skills," Comeau said.

Comeau's exhibit runs until the end of October from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.