

February 17, 2006

## Written in Stone

Jewish cemetery monuments and their decorative motifs are rich in art and history. Inspired by their imagery and meaning, photographs, paintings and sculpture by Toronto artist, Susan L. Brown are featured in *Written in Stone*, on display at the Market Gallery from April 1 to May 14.

Historical and contemporary photographs document the carved symbols on these stone monuments. Using these as a springboard for her mixed-media paintings, Brown illustrates the 'life-cycle' in Jewish culture. These graphite and acrylic works remind her of old family photos and events that signify the passing of lives. "My work in this exhibit represents fleeting glimpses of my imaginary passing through other people's lives" explains Brown.

As a gesture to the monument artisans, Brown created a series of cast paper sculptures. Titled 'Minyan', these works represent the artist's interpretation of conventional subjects found on Jewish cemetery monuments. The Hebrew word *minyan* defines the minimum number of men needed to recite prayers for Jewish ceremonial practice.

Susan L. Brown is a graduate of the Honours Fine Arts program at the University of Toronto. Since retiring from the Toronto District School Board, Brown founded the Artists' Garden Cooperative. She has been recognized at provincial and national levels for her contributions to art education in Canada. Her extensive travels in Asia, North Africa and Europe, and her interest in the art of many cultures is reflected in a multicultural approach to imagery and subject matter in her work.

The Market Gallery is a program of the City's Culture Division and offers changing exhibitions dedicated to Toronto's art, history, culture and offers educational programs for school groups and adults. Located in Toronto's oldest neighbourhood, the main gallery occupies the 19<sup>th</sup> century city council chamber which is all that remains from the City Hall that stood on this site from 1845 to 1899.

Admission is free. The Market Gallery is located on the second floor of the South St. Lawrence Market, 95 Front Street East. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Visit [www.toronto.ca/culture](http://www.toronto.ca/culture) for more information on special events and programs at other City museums and art centres.

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