

*"Being a young artist in a tiny city is bittersweet ... but living and working in a close art community has its benefits. Corner Brook is warm and welcoming, and I really feel a strong sense of support which has been vital to my personal and professional growth." - Charlotte Hobden, 2nd year Visual Arts student*

## Scattered Attentions at the RAC

By Robyn Anderson

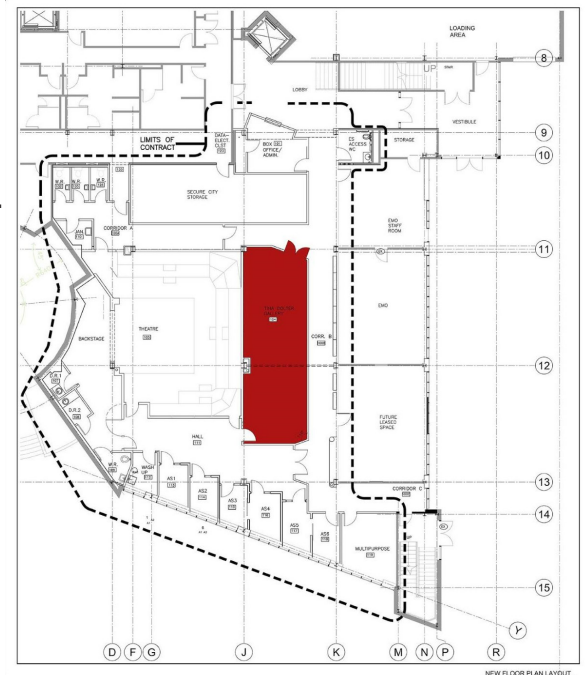
Living in a small town in Newfoundland can be a challenge, and being a young artist in one of these towns is no different. Now, this isn't a criticism. Being challenged is not a bad thing; it can drive us to do better, force us to make our own opportunities and remind us to appreciate our quirks. The Visual Art Students of Grenfell Campus can often find themselves challenged in the small town of Corner Brook. With few galleries it can be tough to find opportunities to show in exhibitions close to home. Scattered Attentions at the Tina Dolter Gallery is a response to this need. These types of shows give students the chance to practice and apply skills they have been taught as well as gain vital insight on how to deal with a gallery as an emerging artist.

Scattered Attentions is a juried exhibition proposed and curated by visiting assistant professor Andrew Testa for the Tina Dolter Gallery. This exhibition is intended to give students at Grenfell Campus the opportunity to show work in a curated space outside of Grenfell Campus as well as a call to create new works in response to unfamiliar subject matter. Testa goes on to explain, "Scattered Attentions is in search and in praise of the potential for creativity to exist within such wandering and distracted states."

The artists were asked to consider distraction in relation to contemporary art. Distraction is an apt topic for student artists to explore. It is something they are well acquainted with and will continue to face through the duration of their studies. Lucia Torres, second year Visual Arts student, states that "... coming from a big city ... Corner Brook has given [her] the opportunity to know [her] self without the influence of current trends and the pressure to belong to an elite of artists."

The resulting pieces vary in approach and aesthetic: taking the form of performance, textiles, printmaking and more. The works delve into themes related to distraction like destruction, growth, anxiety and the subconscious. The work from Grenfell students continues to examine art in a playful way, and responds to the challenges put forward to them, worthy of seeing in person.

The pieces produced fit into the definition of distraction and pivot in its natural essence of ambiguity. Testa has challenged the students of Grenfell to reconsider their relationship with distraction, and in turn, the artists do the same for the viewer with their work.



*Blueprints of the Rotary Arts Centre, Corner Brook, NL*