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Linda Huey's Botanical Ceramic Sculptures at BMAC

Opposing elements characterize the unique pieces in *Urban Blooms: Ceramic Sculptures by Linda Huey*, one of six exhibits at Brattleboro Museum & Art Center through March 22.

Everything from the materials to the message speaks of yin and yang, of positive and negative. These creations in clay contain references to the cycles of growth, decay and regeneration. At the same time, they subtly convey that all is not right with the world, and that nature is struggling with the effects of civilization on the environment. Huey seems to pose the question: will nature win or lose?

The largest sculpture in the exhibit, *Upside Down, Right Side Up*, illustrates Huey's sense of humor, and that more than one interpretation is part of her intention. Does the shiny, bulbous end resting on the ground resemble a flower or an opening seed? Does the branched end at the top imply upended roots or charred branches?

Huey's years of production ceramic work are evident in the skillfully crafted forms that make up these botanically-inspired sculptures. She often uses molds to form moist clay into blooms and leaves. Larger works are made of individual pieces that are supported by or attached to Rebar, a steel rod with ridges that is used in the construction industry. A closer and longer look at these colorfully glazed pieces reveals nuts, bolts, metal springs and imprinted details of tiny soldiers, a toy truck, city buildings, seashells and various "junk." Huey presses slabs of clay into a large plaster mold with various textures imprinted in it. These slabs then function as bases that resemble fossilized layers out of which strange plants grow. Huey says, "Clay is my pathway into the natural world, and my concern for the environment influences my sculpture. The work that results portrays how I see our culture's ambivalences."

Museum galleries are open daily except Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; please check for holiday and exhibit change closings. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors, \$2 for students. Museum

members and children six years old and younger are admitted free of charge. The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center is located in Union Station at the intersection of Main Street (Route 5) and Routes 119 and 142 in downtown Brattleboro. The Museum is wheelchair accessible, and parking is available in front of the building. For more information, call 802-257-0124 or visit www.brattleboromuseum.org.

The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center is a nonprofit organization founded in 1972, with a mission is to present art and ideas in ways that inspire, educate, and engage people of all ages. Compelling new exhibits by regional and internationally acclaimed artists are shown each season. The Museum Gift Shop, free to the public during regular Museum hours, features an assortment of cards, games, books, prints, educational and gift items including work of many local artists. The Museum is financially supported by grants, donations, and sponsorships, and by membership and program fees. The 2007-08 season is sponsored by Entergy Vermont Yankee.