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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

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Increase taxes

Reduce the size of the civil service

Cut back on the salaries, the travel expenses or the pensions for Members of Parliament

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Installation explores humans' relationship with nature

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MARCH 11, 2011

Jane Tingley combines plants, sound and sculpture in her "Plant (iPod)" installation, which is currently on display at the Estevan Art Gallery and Museum's Gallery No. 2.



Jane Tingley stands among the plants that are a part of her "Plant (iPod)" installation.

Tingley was in Estevan on March 4 to explain her installation to those who gathered for a reception. "Plant (iPod)" has eight living plants spread throughout the gallery. Each has an iPod attached, and speakers installed inside cork sculptures.

She hopes that "Plant (iPod)" will encourage viewers to examine their relationship with plant life.

"I'm trying to subvert the relationship between human life and plant life," said Tingley. "Traditionally we have a hierarchy that places human life over plant life."

Plants share the planet with people, she said. Issues that concern nature and the environment, as the world's population grows and resources are used, have gained increased significance. Humans are becoming more aware that they need to be sensitive of the world's natural resources.

The convoluted sound of human breathing patterns and technology permeates through the gallery to create an atmosphere of technology and nature coming together. Each plant also has an individual, motion-activated audio story or fable about plants and learning from nature.

"People want to hear those stories, so they bring their bodies close to the plant, so they're creating a different sort of relationship," said Tingley.

The stories have several different translations – English, French, Spanish and Portuguese – but for the Estevan installation, she opted for just English.

The iPod is a metaphor, she said – a sound system that people have for their own personal experiences. And so she wanted to create an iPod for plants, while creating a forum that visually references plants.

"I'm interested in the viewer's experience within the installation," said Tingley. "I feel like robotics and sound, by listening to the installation, really lends itself to creating an experience."

"Plant (iPod)" will remain in the Gallery No. 2 until the end of April.

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