

ANNE LABOVITZ WORKS NOW ON VIEW AT THE TWEED MUSEUM

Facing the past can be illuminating, especially when it's cast within liquid plastic through the hands of former Congdon resident Anne Labovitz. Her exhibition, *Composite Portraits*, currently on view at the Tweed Museum of Art, explores the collective impression created by archived facial expressions molded into a synergistic visual experience.

"Portraiture – especially involving other people's faces – can be very challenging, even risky – and it's also very emotional," said Ken Bloom, director of the Tweed Museum, during his opening night reception comments. "Anne has taken something representational and turned it into something emotional and evocative, and – technically – something remarkable."

Labovitz attended Congdon Elementary, and graduated from Duluth East High School in 1983.

"I have memories of traipsing through the woods all the time over to my friend's house with my skis," she recalled. "There were an awful lot of birch trees – they were so memorable for me. If I close my eyes and think about growing up in Congdon, I think of the birch trees."

These days, Labovitz is married and the mother of three children even as she continues to work full-time as an artist as she has for 25 years. She lives in St. Paul. She has paintings placed around the world in galleries, hotels, hospitals, banks, and private corporations.

"I get emails – 1 a. m. or 3 a. m. maybe – she works all the time," said her business manager, Kate Dieperink. "I've joked that I'll get an email at 5 a. m. telling me that she's going to bed – and I'm just getting up!"

Labovitz concurred.

"I work solitary, I work hard, I work all night and I love it – I work more than 50 hours a week," she said.

Standing near the largest work in the exhibition, *Lineage*, Labovitz pointed out that in the 8'X8' work portraying a face gazing westward are suffused her recollections of 22 human faces that she's encountered – and sometimes photographed – over time.

"I love human beings and connecting to people and studying and learning about relationships," said Labovitz. "This body of work is really based on examining what that means in terms of the shadows and histories and stories that are part of who we are as individuals. Even though each work looks like a single face, each is really a composite of five or more people."

Just fewer than 400 people came to her opening night reception on June 6.

Labovitz has maintained her connection to the Twin Ports and North Shore throughout her artistic career.

"The lake has played such a central role in my life," reflected Labovitz who worked last summer near the lakeshore carving the wooden boards used in her works at the Tweed. "Every day I was carving all the wooden boards that you see – they take about two days to carve. So, I spent all day outside carving."

Jeffrey Schmidt, owner of Lizzards Art Gallery and Framing, has worked with Labovitz in the past and now has some of her work on view in his gallery.

"I've known Anne for a while. She has an enthusiasm for Duluth. She has a big following here in Duluth. It's always a pleasure to see Anne when she comes to town."

Anne is well-known for her teaching workshops for both children and adults. She spent the afternoon of June 7 working with children who attended the Family Day with the Artist event at the Tweed Museum.

To learn more about the work of Anne Labovitz, go to www.labovitz.com.

