

Works of Dougal Bichan on display at museum



SNAPSHOT.. The innovative photography of Dougal Bichan is presently on display at the Gore Bay Museum. Combining photography and hand coloring, Bichan's works are a 'must see.'

Neil Zacharjewicz The Recorder

GORE BAY - Dougal Bichan likes to work on Manitoulin.

Bichan, a photographer whose works are presently on display at the Gore Bay Museum, has been coming to Manitoulin for one week each summer for the last 25 years.

"I feel like I am in a different time zone when I am on Manitoulin," Bichan confessed. "I like the lack of 'McDonalds.'"

Bichan teaches multimedia production techniques at Seneca College's School of Communication Arts. He has done work on a number of conferences and awards ceremonies, including doing work for Mary Kay Cosmetics, the Addictions Research Foundation, the Insurance Institute of Canada, Roberts and Associates, IBM Canada Ltd., the Constellation Hotel and the Bassett Theatre. He is

also Vice President and co-founder of Grey Interactive, a division of Grey Canada, offering interactive marketing services, CD-ROM, and World Wide Web sites.

Yet for all of his background in multimedia work, Bichan's work reflects his love and reverence for the things of nature. His current show, 'Carved in Stone,' reflects this love.

The works on display are a mixture of color Cibachrome and black and white prints, printed on fibre based paper. Most of the black and white prints are hand colored.

Bichan first started hand coloring his work two to three years ago. He first became involved with it, because he wanted to get away from the mechanical processes of working with a photo program for computers. Now, he admits, he sometimes loses track of time when

he becomes too engrossed in his coloring work.

"I have been really having a lot of fun with it," he said. "It was a challenge for me."

The display focuses on patterns created by natural processes, on both natural and man-made objects. He explained many of newer works focus shapes and textures. Many of the images for the show were selected from Bichan's work in and around the Manitoulin area, in McGregor Bay, Killarney Provincial Park, Algonquin Park and in Toronto.

"I like the places you go to do this sort of work," Bichan pointed out. He said he really enjoys the feeling of seeing something, realizing it, making it work, and having other people enjoy it themselves.

'Carved in Stone' will be on display at the Gore Bay Museum from June 2 to July 5.