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Unique piece captures 'real' Hazel

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Staff

Mayor Hazel McCallion says she's seen many portraits of herself over the years, but nothing as unique as Pat Hertzberg's rendition.

"Some look like me, some don't," McCallion said last Friday while examining a portrait of herself that's part of Hertzberg's exhibit on display at The Grange.

"You've captured me laughing — that's real," she told the Mississauga artist, who's presenting *Out of the Woods*, a collection of some 27 pieces, until Friday.

McCallion couldn't resist touching the textured piece, which is made of different fabrics. The mixed media piece incorporates embroidery and a technique Hertzberg calls "thread web."

"This is a technique that I actually pioneered," Hertzberg explained to McCallion as she walked her through the exhibit. "This idea of cutting up pieces of fabric and then reconnecting them and then, of course, choosing different fabrics — it's kind of like a modern quilt."

McCallion exclaimed several times that the piece, which can be purchased for \$1,200, is unusual.

McCallion was invited to the exhibit by Hertzberg, who's known the mayor for 20 years, having served on several boards including the Mayor's task force examining the future of Mississauga.

Hertzberg said she created the portrait because she wanted to capture the person she says helped shape a great city.

Her other works on display, which depict natural scenery, reflect the past five years of her life. Hertzberg says moving out of the central Mississauga neighbourhood of Gordon Woods gave her a new perspective on things.



Textile artist Pat Hertzberg's one-woman show at The Grange features a portrait of Mayor Hazel McCallion. Here, the artist (right) shows off her work to McCallion.
Staff photo by Fred Loek

"That's why I call it *Out of the Woods*," Hertzberg explained. "I think I was quite into nature

because, in the woods, you do appreciate all the finer points in nature because you see them up close, but

then I left the woods and I started seeing sunsets, which you don't see in the woods."