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# Slum inspires art

By RACHEL PUNCH THE SUDBURY STAR



Rachel Punch The Sudbury Star Montreal artist Karine Giboulo's newest installation called Village Démocratique, is being exhibited at la galerie du nouvel-ontario on Elgin Street this month.

Giboulo visited slums in Africa and Haiti, which inspired her latest installation --Village Démocratique.

The work, named after a slum area in the shadow of Port-Au-Prince, juxtaposes the rich western world against the slums she saw first-hand.

The idea for the work, which is being exhibited this month at la galerie du nouvel-ontario on Elgin Street, came to her during a visit to Nairobi.

"I visited a big, big slum. I think it was the biggest in Africa," Giboulo said.

She then travelled to Haiti. She spent about a year sculpting and putting together the pieces of the first phase of the work. It is the beginning of a series that will eventually include more than 500 figurines.

"I am building an imaginary city that brings together North and South, opulence and hunger, showing the contrast between two realities, illustrating, materializing and questioning the invisible bonds that attach us all to each other," Giboulo said.

The first phase of the project has a large, glass-covered building jutting up from the slums below. On top of the building roof, ceramic figures are absorbed in high society games like golf.

In the shadow of the building are the series of small structures made with colourful recycled objects from the slum in Haiti. About 100 small ceramic characters are depicted in the work, going about their daily life.

Giboulo lives and works in Montreal. She was in Sudbury for the opening reception for the installation, which was held on Friday evening at GNO. Giboulo studied plastic arts at the Cégep du Vieux-Montréal and art history at the Université de Montréal. Her works have been exhibited in Québec, Ontario, Newfoundland, the U.S. and France.