

Mississauga and Syracuse similar?

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Young artists working in Mississauga are used to being in the shadow of Toronto's vibrant downtown scene.

The same can be said for young artists in Syracuse, who might feel eclipsed by the scene in New York City.

So, do artists living in Mississauga and Syracuse share similar perspectives on growing up in smaller suburban cities with identity issues?

That's a question University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) art student Alison Kobayashi and Christina Kolozsvary, 21, an art video student at Syracuse University, set out to explore in a new show that opened last night at the Art Gallery of Mississauga (AGM).

Kolozsvary spent some time at UTM last spring and Kobayashi visited Syracuse to put together ideas for *Couch Surfing in Mississauga/Couch Surfing in Syracuse*. The title refers to the pair sleeping on each other's couches during visits.

Each project, while distinctly different, includes a series of short video clips. Kobayashi's clips chronicle the process of growing up through Girl Guides in Mississauga, while Kolozsvary's depict a childhood love for Elvis.

Also on at the current AGM exhibition, running through March 22, is a show called *Illuminating Peace*, by Hong Kong native Amy Loewan.

Eight large banners, woven together from rice paper strips, are suspended in the gallery. Mounted on the banners, in both calligraphy and computer-generated typefaces, are words from many languages that Loewan believes are critical to establishing world peace.

"My art is the melding of Chinese painting sensibilities and western post-modernist practices," says Loewan. "My work is about the promotion of peace, harmony and misunderstanding."

Gallery hours are weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and weekends from noon to 4 p.m.

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Couch Surfing Mississauga. Alison Kobayashi, left, and Christina Kolozsvary opened their joint art exhibition *Couch Surfing in Mississauga/Couch Surfing in Syracuse* last night at the Art Gallery of Mississauga. *Staff photo by Fred Loek*