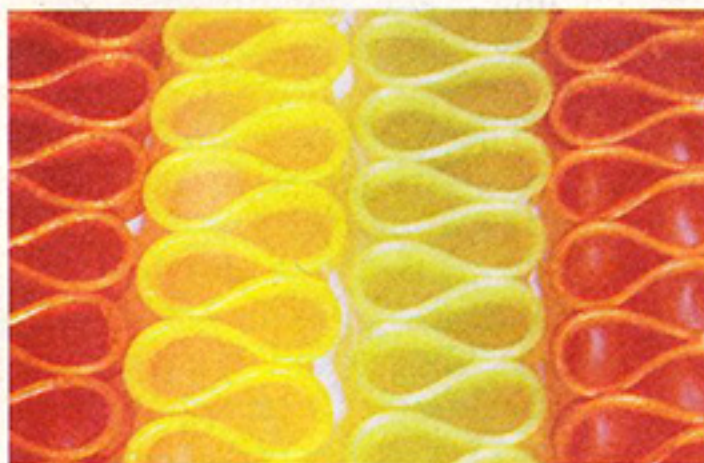


The Silhouette

McMASTER UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

ART



Delicious art

Liss Platt is one of five women artists exhibiting work in *Active Layers* now on at the McMaster Museum of Art. Platt uses candy in careful patterns and interactive displays to communicate her subject.

Page 8

MUSIC



Hometown heroes

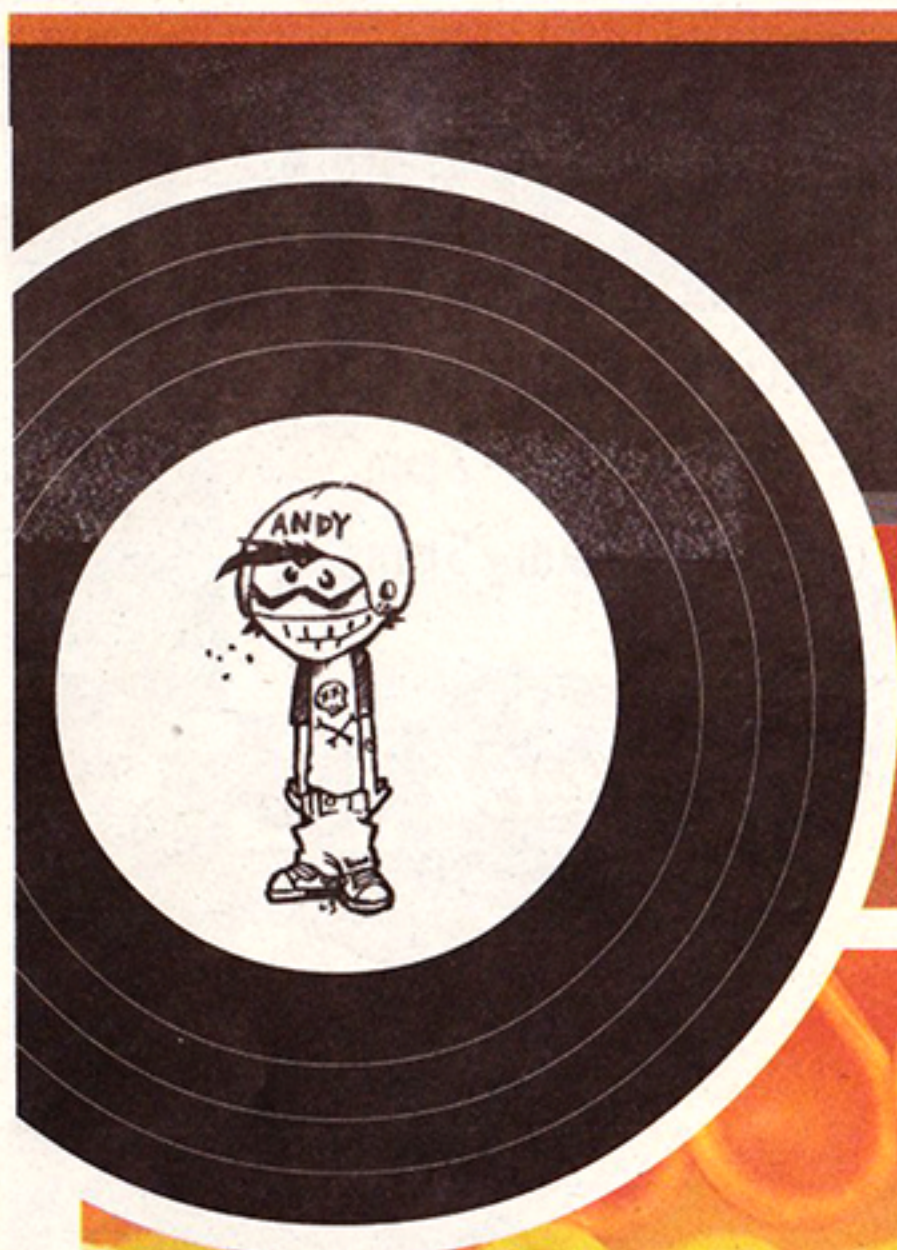
The Ride Theory has a new CD, *In This City*. It's a musical whirlwind that shows off the band's songwriting abilities. And it'll knock your socks off.

Page 9

8 • andy • the silhouette's a&e magazine

art

friday, august 5, 2005



INSIDE andy
arts and entertainment

in the artist's eyes
featuring liss platt

active layers debuts at mcmaster museum of art

Digital experiences—not just equipment—define *Active Layers*, a new media exhibit at the McMaster Museum of Art.

Unlike traditional gallery installations, no velvet rope or Plexiglass separates the viewer from the exhibit. Visitors to the museum are able to interact with the art and become an integral part of the display. At one installation, visitors are invited to touch panels; this tactile connection allows the patron to explore visual and aural collages. In other parts of the gallery, electronic devices, such as video surveillance cameras and phosphorescent screens, have been set up and the artwork is given meaning only when the devices are triggered by passing patrons.

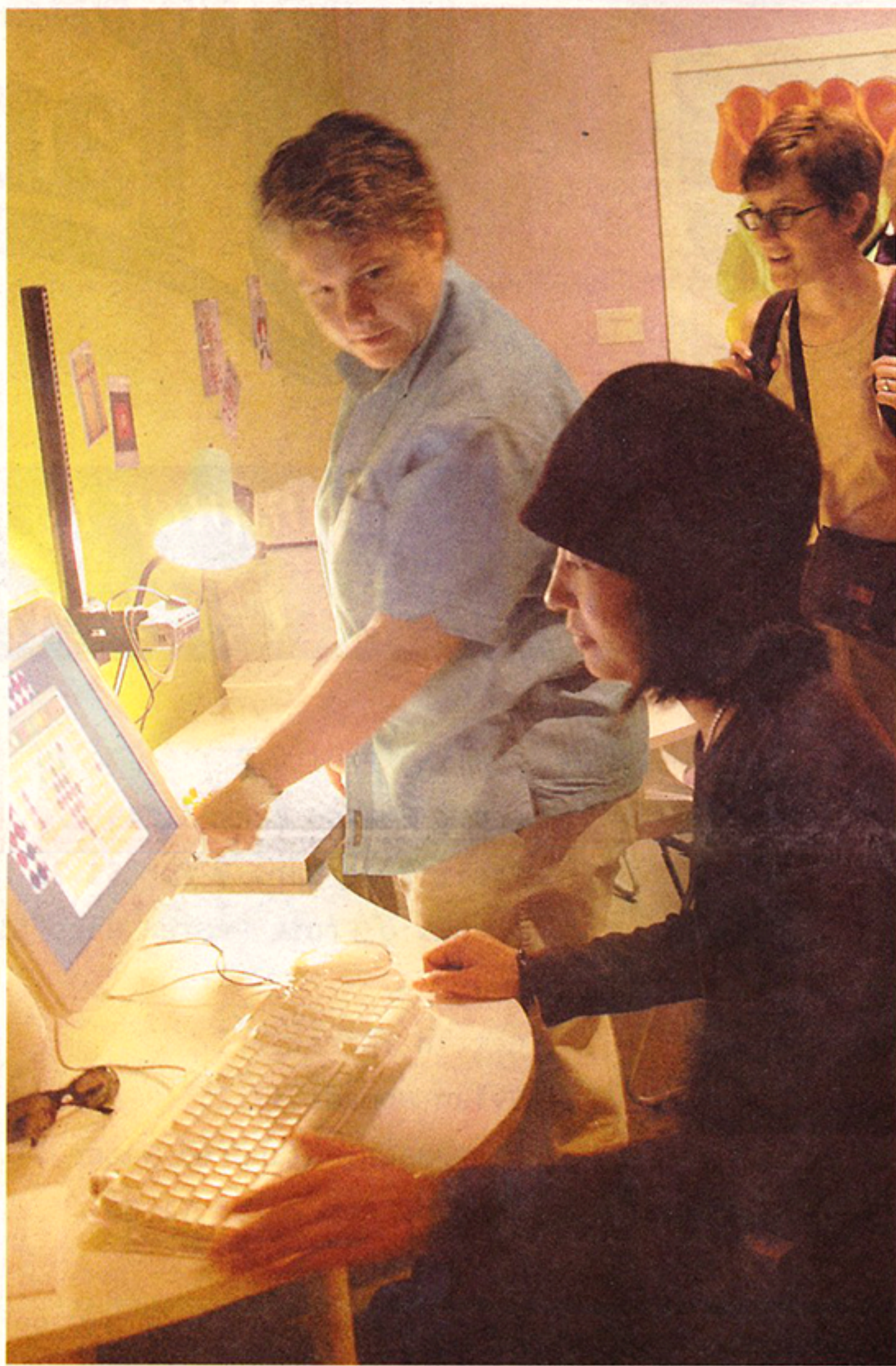
The show, which is curated by Ingrid Mayrhofer, features the work of five female artists: Teresa Ascencao, Michelle Gay, Amelia Jiménez, Liss Platt, and Veronica Verkly. Their individual work is captivat-

ing and blends well as a whole. The resulting exhibition is a fine example of the diversity of ideas and tools being explored by modern artists.

The show's most outstanding contributor, **Liss Platt**, joined McMaster's multimedia department three years ago, and has since become the acting director of the University's communication studies programme.

In addition to her teaching duties, Platt has also made a name for herself as a media artist. Her work has been exhibited extensively throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe, and her art takes the form of videotapes, films, photographs, web sites, performances, and installations.

Frequent visitors to the McMaster Museum of Art may recall Platt's installation in the Panabaker Gallery during the Faculty Show in 2003, shortly after her arrival at McMaster. The Faculty Show featured one of Platt's best-known series, en-



Liss Platt, assisting visitors at her interactive exhibit.

titled Puck Paintings (2000-01), which she created by shooting spray-painted hockey pucks at a white goal-sized surface. In the Body Works series (2000-01), which was also featured at the earlier exhibition, Platt used a scanner to record the landscape of her own body after participating in vigorous sports like mountain biking and hockey. The colour and texture of these digital prints are reminiscent of an abstract landscape painting.

In the current *Active Layers* exhibit, Platt's work continues to use innovative

media and subject matter. In addition to an interactive website and an installation that allows the viewer to produce his or her own work, Platt has also contributed a number of large-scale photographic prints that depict hundreds of shiny candies, painstakingly arranged in colour-coded patterns.

Through her work, Platt creates a dialogue with artistic traditions that she references and reworks. The large-scale prints directly reference the work of artists such as Piet Mondrian, and the grid structure of the candies evoke both Minimalist and Op Art traditions.

The most hands-on part of the installation allows visitors to create their own candy composition, which is fashioned from a variety of tasty treats provided by the artist. Once a candy creation is finalized, the viewer is able to photograph and print the masterpiece.

Be sure to visit the museum before *Active Layers* ends on Aug. 14. The suggested entrance fee is two dollars, but the gallery is always free for students and seniors. Don't forget to visit the permanent collection on the upper level that also features *Subjective Distance*, a fantastic photography exhibit featuring Canadian photographers, including a number of Hamiltonians.

• K. Jennifer Bedford

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