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ISABELLE HAYEUR'S WHITE GOLD TRANSFORMS A TUNNEL INTO AN ENTRYWAY TO A BEACH.

FOUR DIRECTIONS at Evergreen Brick Works (550 Bayview), to December 31. 416-596-1495.
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Directions dazzles

EVERGREEN SHOWS FOUR FAB WORKS
BY FRAN SCHECHTER

A synergy of content and setting gives Four Directions a powerful impact. In an open-air building, No. 9 Contemporary Art and the Environment and curator Andrea Carson screen four videos in tunnels that once served as pre-firing drying kilns. Despite their relatively benign function of baking the bricks that built Toronto, the rough spaces have an ominous feel.

The first video in the row of tunnels comes from Werner Herzog's Lessons Of Darkness. Filmed from above after the Gulf War, giant smoke plumes rise from Kuwait's burning lakes of oil as Herzog reads from Revelations ("in those days men shall seek death... and death shall flee from them"). The images are awe-inspiring embodiments of power-hungry madness.

Though the three Canadian responses in adjoining tunnels can't match the apocalyptic majesty of Herzog's film, their tentative seeds of healing still find fertile ground at the reclaimed industrial site.

Quebecer Isabelle Hayeur contributes White Gold, a reference to commodities like sugar and salt. Made for the site, her video turns the end of the tunnel into a doorway leading to a beach. Periodically, a gentle white rain of salt flows down – perhaps giving life like the sea or perhaps poisoning the earth.

Val Klassen films two people running playfully over Cyanide Flats, a dead zone where Manitoba gold and silver mines dumped the toxic chemical in the 1930s. Though signs of hope at the flats are feeble, Klassen's runners don't seem dispirited.

In Waterspeak, by Dana Claxton, an aboriginal woman in the foreground entreats you to listen to water speak, while an aboriginal man in the background humbly hears her words. Water flowing on the other side of the split screen brings home her message.

Afterwards, you can head to the wetlands behind the Brick Works or the

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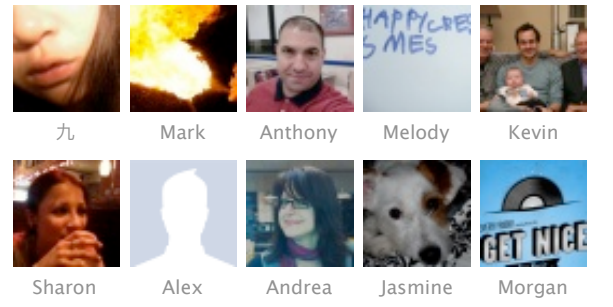
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Don Valley bike path to continue listening and contemplating how positive change might emerge from destruction.

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