

HEADS OF ENGINEERING (2008), Geraldo Pace

This is the third stop on the Public Art, Science and Technology tour.

In the EV atrium, at the crossroads between the Faculty of Fine Arts and the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, five engineers play dress-up. These engineers are not students, nor are they faculty. They are Geraldo Pace's creations: the *Heads of Engineering*, playful photographic portraits of five post-modern sculptural busts that brightly line the atrium's eastern wall.

The artwork was donated by the Guerrera family in 2008, the same benefactors who donated *Imaginary Portraits of 24 Universal Geniuses*, a work that appears later in this tour. *The Heads of Engineering* is meant to commemorate three significant moments: the newly erected EV building, the school's post-millennium success, and Nabil Esmail's tenure as the dean of engineering and computer science (1997–2008).

Sculpted using 3D technologies, each bust is composed of one basic material — either stone, glass, metal, or wood. Decorated with an eclectic array of everyday objects, natural items, and engineering paraphernalia, the heads are a whimsical nod to the different engineering branches at Concordia: civil, mechanical, electrical, aerospace, and communications. If you are able to, are you able to match each branch of engineering to a head?

Rather literal in their imagery, the sculptures are clad in dragonflies, gears, ball bearings, birds' nests and CD-ROMs — unusual objects especially so for a discipline not typically known for its expressive fashion choices. This odd combination produces bright photographs, drawing inspiration from a commercial art practice, yet treated with an artist's touch.

Moving from left to right, we encourage you to look carefully at each of the five photographs of the busts. If you can, gaze closely at these heads: which objects create their faces? What natural elements do you see or imagine? Although this series is meant to pay homage to the faculty and its administration, at the 2008 unveiling, the artist said that the heads were ultimately intended to inspire youth to become future "trailblazers". But while the Gina Cody School is named after a trailblazing female engineer, the field remains a male-dominated one.

Take a moment to imagine the appearances. Do they accurately depict the engineering faculty? How might these images deflect from serious social commentary? Do these monuments celebrate scientific genius, or do they gesture to the possibility of viewing engineering as a form of creativity itself?

To continue this tour, click on *Trans-Earth* by Yves Trudeau.