

Putting things in perspective

Art. Local legend's exhibit inspired by trains



**BACKSTAGE
PASS**

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Some big-name artists have found their way into The Michael Gibson Gallery.

The gallery (157 Carling St.), until April 27, is hosting two special exhibits: one that recreates a 1982 exhibition with works from Greg Curnoe, Paterson Ewen, Gathie Falk and Ron Moppett and another by London music and art legend Murray Favro.

Favro was part of a generation of London artists who became nationally recognized in the 1960s (Jack Chambers, Greg Curnoe, Ron Martin and others). His current exhibition is called Tracks.

"I was waiting for the train, you know those long CP trains you have to sit in your car and wait for. I was totally bored, but I started listening intensely to the sound of the train, and recorded it," Favro, guitar player of the internationally recognized noise group Nihilist Spasm Band, said about his inspiration.

The artist has built three large-scale installations inspired by train tracks.

In the pieces, he plays around with perspective.

"It has to do with the way you look at things. We always see in perspective, but we are not really aware of it. It gets kind of lost," said Favro, who is fascinated by inventions and technology. "I ask myself, 'If technology had been started again, could I make these things with stuff around my house?'"

He enjoys working with his hands, using materials like wood and steel.

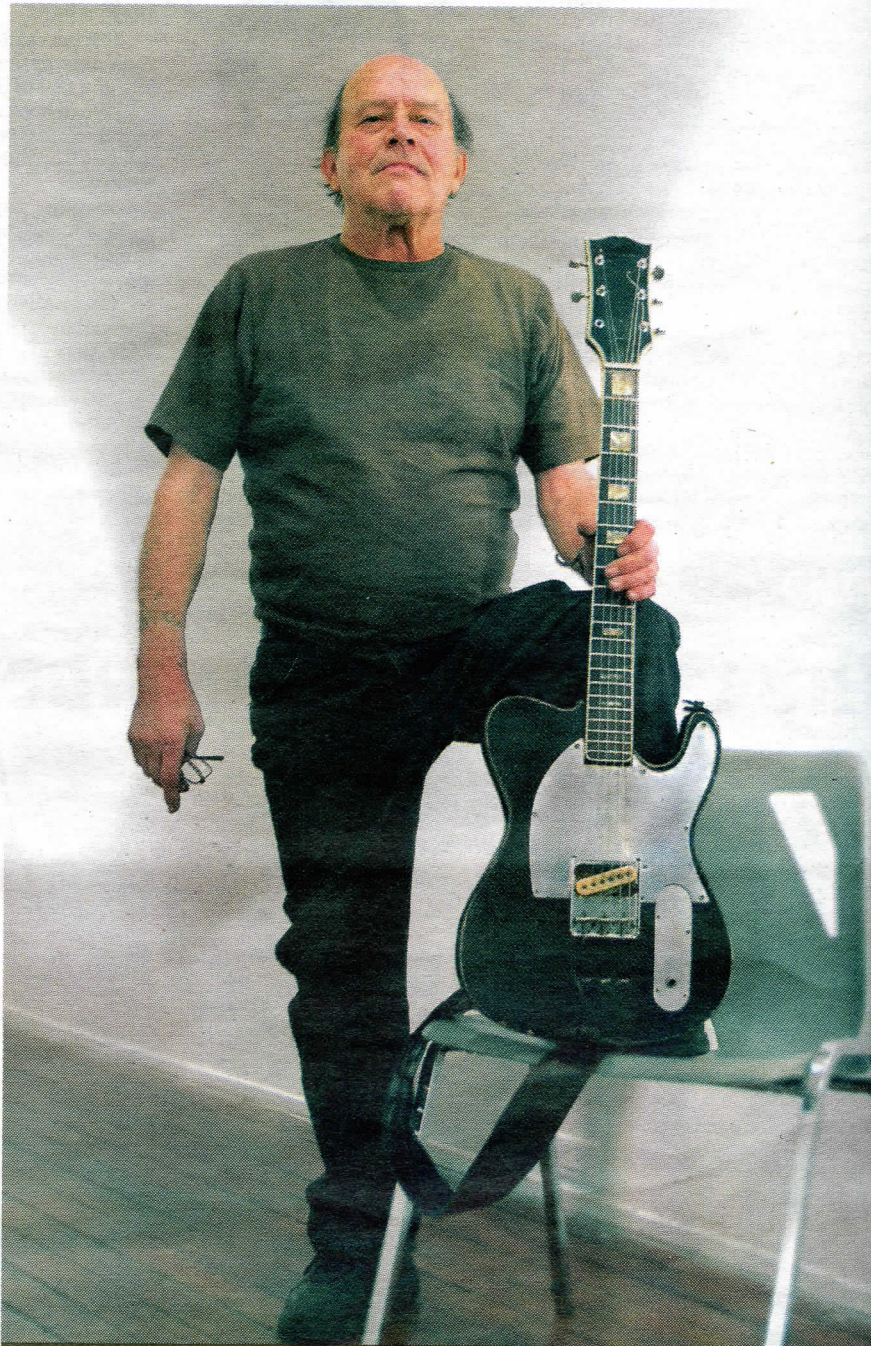
"It's about making, not just thinking. The works partly form themselves. You are kind of an observer watching it happen," the artist explained.

His piece Potato Peeler and Drawing in a Sketch Book is made from two metal pipes welded together.

"We have a few potato peelers lying around the house, and they aren't very good. I thought, 'I can make a better one than this,'" he said. "It ended up looking a bit like a spaceship."

The artist used his audio recordings of the train and a watermill to replace traditional drum tracks when he played with his former band the Ludites.

Favro's artwork has been the subject of a major retrospective organized by the Art Gallery of Ontario. He received the Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts in 2007.



Murray Favro is pictured at Forest City Gallery. The musician and artist has work on display through April 27 at Michael Gibson Gallery. MILA PETKOVIC/FOR METRO

Around town

- **Music.** The Forest City Gallery (258 Richmond St.), jam space of the noise group Nihilist Spasm Band, is hosting an experimental music night featuring Wolfcow, Fleshtone Aura and Brian Ruryk at 8 p.m. Friday. Tickets are \$5.
- **Graphica.** The Pride Library will launch its latest special collection, Queer Graphica, during an event from 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday in Room 107 of Western University's Weldon Library.