

TORONTO ARTIST FINDS HOME for KING-SIZED DRAWING

HALIFAX (CP)

Toronto artist Allan Harding MacKay has finally found an art gallery that will show his two-year labor of love.

It's not that the drawing isn't worth showing.

It's just too big.

The drawing - charcoal, pastel and graphite on packing paper - is a 164-metre-long, 11/4 metre-high portrait of the who's who of the contemporary Canadian art scene.

The display, which opened Friday and runs to April 2 at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, may be the first and last exhibition for the work. Only three-quarters of the portrait takes up all of the gallery's temporary exhibition space.

"They were the first ones that dared to show it," said MacKay tongue-in-cheek. "It took a lot of convincing. My mom had to get on the phone and everything." The work is titled *Some Critical Countenances: An Extended Drawing*. The artist said it's meant to "unfold some fabric of the art community across the country."

The work includes portraits of artists, critics and curators from Vancouver to Halifax. It begins with artist Michael Snow, known for his lifelike sculptures of geese at Toronto's Eaton Centre, and includes individuals such as John Bentley Mays, art critic for the Toronto Globe and Mail.

There's even a self-portrait of MacKay with a hairline that's receded to the back of his head and a beard several centimetres longer than the one he now wears.



Roll out the artwork.

Allan Harding MacKay shows off part of his 545-foot-long drawing of more than 150 people. It will be on display at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

