



Staff photo by Fred Loek

Artist Youngo Verma has been nominated for a Toronto Arts Award in the visual arts category for his 1983 sculpture of Mayor Hazel McCallion. Winners in the competition will be announced Sept. 26.

Winners named in September

Sculptor up for an award

Scrubbl 44

By LISA TALLYN
Staff Reporter

Aug. 2-89 MW

It was the character in Mayor Hazel McCallion's face and her personality that sculptor Youngo Verma attempted to capture in his 1983 sculpture of the Mississauga politician.

That sculpture may earn the former-Mississauga artist a Toronto Art Award.

Verma's work was nominated by Mississauga resident Adele Priffer in the Visual Arts category of the Toronto Arts Awards. Winners in the seven-category competition will be announced September 26. They will be honored at a gala October 12 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

Verma, who now lives in Toronto, says he approached McCallion with the idea for a sculpture.

She visited his studio for sittings over a three-week period.

The finished piece sat in the mayor's office for close to three years, but it is back in Verma's Toronto apartment now to be mounted on a pedestal.

The original sculpture was done in clay, but Verma has also cast one in plaster and plans to make one in bronze.

The 51-year-old artist is originally from India. He received his art and sculpture training at the New Delhi School of Art, then studied at the Staedel Art School in Frankfurt, Germany, for five years, before moving to Mississauga in 1981.

McCallion is not the only politician Verma has attempted to sculpt. He approached Pierre Trudeau when he was prime minister, but was turned down.

"He also has a very interesting face," said Verma, who says he might try to contact Trudeau again.

PEEL

BIOGRAPHY: VERMA

YOUNGO

Aug 2-89 M.N.