

TO: MEDIA
FROM: Nancy Cairns, Marketing & Communications Coordinator
DATE: Friday November 18, 2011
SUBJECT: **A Night at the Fair -- Fall Wall Exhibit | The Underpass**

Local artist, photographer and mother of two, Mary Spicer has a passion for country fairs and is thrilled to have her latest work **"Carp Fair Obsessions: A Night at the Fair"**

installed as the **Fall Wall Exhibit at The Underpass** outdoor urban gallery at the corner of Rideau Street and Colonel By Drive across from the Rideau Centre in Downtown Rideau. Three works from the series was installed on November 17 and will remain until the end of January 2012.



ABOVE: Images installed on the Wall outdoor urban gallery at The Underpass.



TOP: Swizzler | MIDDLE: Ferris Wheel | BOTTLE: Bench

Mary began photographing the fair about 7 years ago, with the excuse that she was there with her kids anyway...it has become an obsession of sorts ever since. *"To this day I love being around the smells, the sounds, the wonderful light and colour of the fair at night. I feel truly at home there, and often wait for the moment when it begins to quiet down; then I remember", says Spicer.*

As a teenager, the fair was all about the midway at night for Mary. *"The fall fair was our last stab at summer and we'd soak up every single minute of it. Toward the end of the evenings, as crowds thinned, music and screaming from the rides subsided and the grinding gears of the motors quieted, we'd realize it was time to find our way home...but no one ever wanted to go. The emptied pathways from the gaming alleys to the rides became eerie yet welcoming. The midway seemed to offer itself to us; it was our very own stage", she said.*

The photographs in this exhibit capture the wildly colourful lights of the fairgrounds that are exotic against the velvety and endless night sky. Every person and every thing sparkles. "These photographs are perfect for our Fall exhibit, even if we are later than anticipated in installing the exhibit. We had hoped to have the exhibit installed three weeks ago, but other deadlines delayed our progress on this project. They are still magical and suited to this time of year", said Peggy DuCharme, Executive Director of the Downtown.

-30-

If you have any questions please contact Executive Director, Peggy DuCharme at 613-241-6211.

Mary Spicer, maryspicer@madmother.ca