



## Local News

### QUEBEC

N O T E S

One of the young and up-and-coming artists at the 18th Baie-Saint-Paul New Art Symposium in September was Scott MacLeod. The 35-year-old painter, photographer and print-maker has studied his specialties in Italy, Mexico and Canada. At the Symposium he presented a suite of multimedia work inspired by ancient Viking, and Scot-tish motives. MacLeod hopes to show his work to a wider public in North America, Scotland and Scandinavia.

Growing up in Red Deer, Alberta next to a Mohawk reserve, Scott MacLeod had always wondered about his own ancestral roots. Thanks to a William Blair Bruce Fine Arts European Travel Scholarship he got the chance to travel to Norway, Sweden, Denmark, the Outer Hebrides, The Shetland- and Orkney Islands to "unlock the origins of my home and ancestry".

Much of the inspiration for Scott MacLeod's "Ancestral Homes" works comes from the Baltic island of Gotland that is famous for its picture rune stones. In Visby Scott stayed at "Brucebo" which was once the

home of the Canadian impressionist painter William Blair Bruce (1859-1906) and his Swedish wife sculptor Carolina Benedicks. The couple had met in the Nordic artist's colony of Grez in France in 1885 and settled in Gotland at the turn of the century.

Carolina created the Brucebo Foundation and in her testament wrote that she wanted to give artists the possibility of staying and working on Gotland for a short period. She would have been touched to know that a young Canadian artist searching for his roots would do just that a hundred years later.

(Above) Scott MacLeod with his "Viking Roots - Routes" that was shown in Quebec.