

Arts & Entertainment

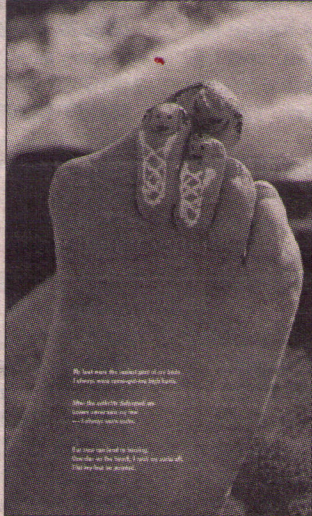
Art duo wins second award with healing work

For the second year in a row, Richmond Hospital psychiatrist Dr. Caroline Choo and writer Paula Stromberg have teamed up to win the top prize at the annual American Psychiatric Association's art exhibition.

The artwork, "Transformed by Nature" is a mixed media and poetry installation about the trust that can lead to healing.

Two large translucent banners overlaid with poetry document one woman's journey as she conquers shame by allowing artists to remove her socks and come to terms with her once-beautiful body being deformed by rheumatoid arthritis.

Bamboo poles used in the artwork reference Chinese scrolls and the now horrifying but once erotically-charged practice



We had made the smallest part of us bleed
I'd never seen anyone else bleed like this.
When the artist's dedicated an
... I'd never seen it before
... I'd never seen it before.



Nothing is perfect at all
... I'd never seen it before
... I'd never seen it before.
Over the years, my body's gone with
... I'd never seen it before
... I'd never seen it before.

'Transformed by Nature,' by Dr. Caroline Choo and writer Paula Stromberg, won top prize at the annual American Psychiatric Association's art exhibition.

of female foot binding.

According to Stromberg, men once paid large sums to unwrap the bound feet of their concubines and inhale the pungent flesh. Lotus feet, as they were known, were objects of sexual desire.

The exhibition was part of the annual American Psychiatric Association conference May 21 to 26 in Atlanta, Georgia, which attracted 17,000 delegates from around the world. Art show winners were chosen by popular vote.