

Bathurst Street mural based on animated movie by local filmmaker

Artist Cristina Delago spent five months on project

NEWS AUG 19, 2010 BY [FANNIE SUNSHINE](#) NORTH YORK MIRROR



Mosaic artist Cristina Delago, left, and animator Arnie Lipsey examine the mural she created on Bathurst Street, south of Lawrence Avenue, based on Lipsey's animated film, 'Almonds and Wine', during the work's unveiling Sunday. (August 15, 2010) - Photo/JILL KITCHENER

In an effort to help beautify the neighbourhood, a mosaic mural was unveiled Sunday, Aug. 15 at Bathurst Street and Lawrence Avenue.

The mural, located on the west side of Bathurst Street between Dell Park and Fairholme avenues, is based on scenes from the animated film *Almonds and Wine*, which brings a Yiddish folk song to life as a young bride and groom from Eastern Europe journeys to North America.

Mosaic artist Cristina Delago began working on the piece in January and completed it five months later, she said.

The 60-metre long retaining wall is covered with 42 removable panels, each five feet long and of various heights, showcasing 84 scenes from the movie.

"It looks very beautiful and definitely beautifies the neighbourhood," Delago said.

The project came to fruition after Eglinton-Lawrence Councillor Howard Moscoe, who represents the area, proposed integrating public art into street improvements on Bathurst Street, south of Lawrence Avenue, in 2007.

Working in collaboration with several art groups, a location was chosen and it was decided the art work would be selected from a movie showcased at the Jewish Animated Film Festival in April 2009.

Some 200 people attended the festival and the viewers chose the film *Almonds and Wine* by Toronto filmmaker Arnie Lipsey to be the subject of the mosaic mural.

From January to June, Delago used cement panels and a mix of porcelain tiles, glass and handcrafted porcelain pieces to depict the animated film in colourful mosaic. Once in place, the panels were grouted and covered with a final coat of sealer.

"A lot of people were asking how I did it," Delago said of her installment. "It's not the traditional way of doing mosaic, it's more contemporary looking mosaic. I engraved the faces into the porcelain tiles and filled it with grout so they all had expressions."