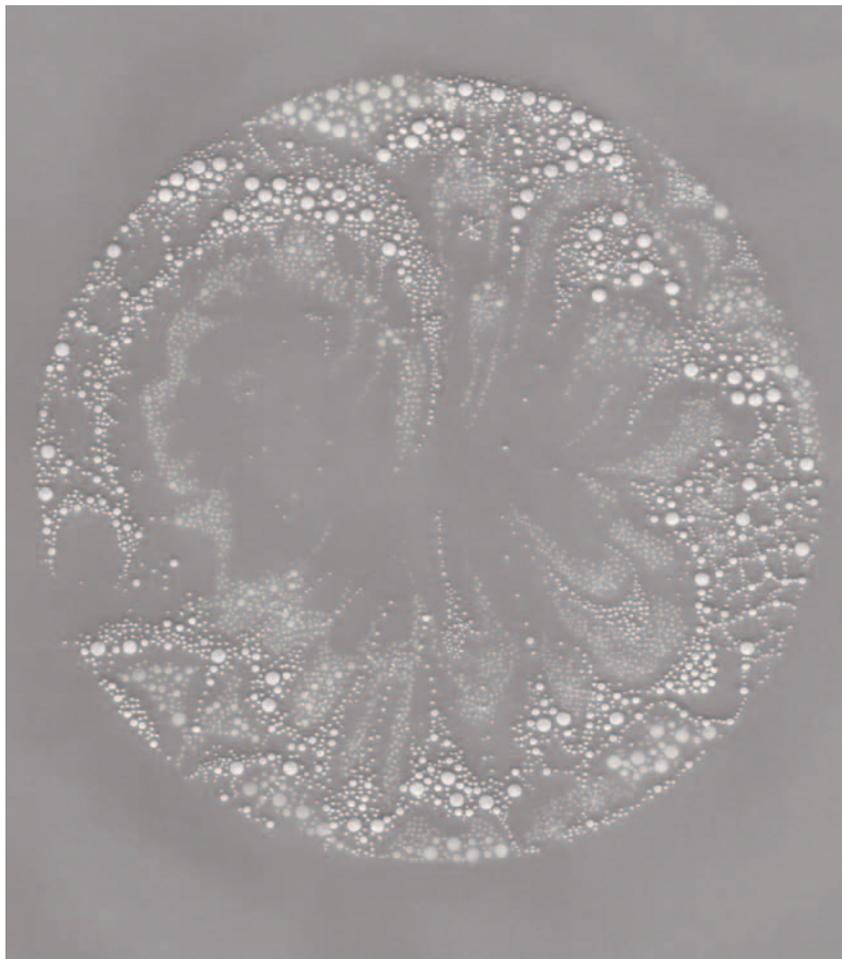


**CHARTING SUCCESS**

A chart on the wall of Natasha Mazurka's studio in the Enriched Bread Artists complex traces the family tree of Mitochondrial Eve, the ancestor from at least 100,000 years ago common to all humans alive today. Eve's tree has branches and tendrils stretching around the globe. Most people see just a chart. Mazurka sees art, which helps explain why this Hamilton import is one of the most talked about artists in Ottawa today.



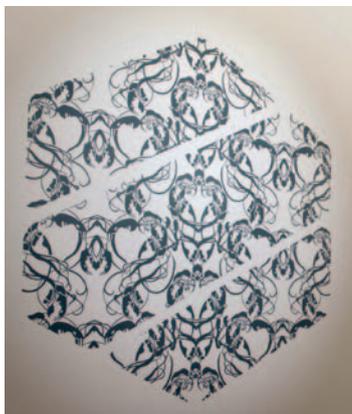
**ART IN 3-D**

Patterns like those in such scientific diagrams as Eve's family tree inspire much of Mazurka's embossed art. The results often resemble an astronomer's map of a star-lit sky. Other works could be taken for the outlines of some strange substance in a Petri dish. For Eve's tree, Mazurka used a ball tool — a stylus with a rounded tip — like a pencil to manipulate patterns from original sources, forming raised white lines and circles on translucent synthetic parchment paper. Two layers of the paper embossed with complementary patterns are then placed atop sturdy coloured archival paper for a 3-D effect. Artists beware: parchment paper is unforgiving, so a slip of the stylus can ruin weeks of work.



**BRANCHING OUT**

Mazurka is also known for her work that resembles art nouveau wallpaper. She starts with a painting by a Group of Seven artist, isolates a patch of tree branches, and then transforms the tangled arrangement of lines into a semi-abstract design that is transferred repeatedly to a canvas. Some viewers sense an elegant art nouveau aesthetic, while others see classic Japanese influences. Neither is surprising because both of those styles are considered by some to have influenced the Group of Seven.



**VINYL COMEBACK**

One entire wall of Mazurka's studio is covered with art in a new medium she is exploring — vinyl. As with the painted wallpaper, Mazurka begins with a vaguely floral-looking arrangement from a Group of Seven painting. That arrangement is then digitized, and through a complicated computerized process, multiple copies are turned into vinyl sandwiched between two layers of transparent paper. The back layer and vinyl stick to the wall, and the front layer peels off. Mazurka embraced this technology for a recent exhibition in Japan. The rolls of vinyl are more portable than painted stretched canvases and can travel as checked luggage.

