



PROFESSOR GARY NEILL KENNEDY

Professor Kennedy's art raised question

By IAN DEAKIN

Placing value judgements on art is an individual decision which is as personal as the images created by the artist himself.

Written on a sheet of paper provided at the entrance to the Eye Level Gallery is a comment by an anonymous viewer of Garry Neill Kennedy's latest one man show, which opened Tuesday night.

It reads: "At last an exhibition that stops and makes you think."

If the exhibition, does anything at all, it makes you stop before you go any further and think "is this what the Canada Council is wasting its money on."

"Locating" is the title of the part of the exhibition which delves into the discovery of the gallery space. It is a series of nails pounded into the wall joined, at eye level by a straight line. Each protruding nail has been hammered into a wooden wall stud.

Give us some art to hang on it!

If these pseudo-intellectuals who stand 5 feet 10 inches can be impressed by this display at eye level — would its validity as art change if viewed by a man 6 feet 4 inches tall. An imposing question.

And what about 'Revealing' — the part of the exhibit that examines the colour history of the gallery's own wall over the years.

Here, at least, Professor Kennedy, who has recently been reappointed president of the

Nova Scotia College of Art and Design for a further five year term, shows his knowledge and skill as an artist in a series of coloured squares depicting the combinations of colours used in the gallery, ending with the colour currently on the walls: White.

Kennedy has an impressive list of credits: a one man show at the Art Gallery of Ontario, exhibitions at the California Institute of the Arts, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and the University of Lethbridge.

The current exhibition continues at the Eye Level. Why?