

Muskoka's newest art gallery opens with a Russian flavour

The hardwood floors are installed. The antique furniture restored. The grand piano refurbished and Chancery Art Gallery in Bracebridge is open for business.

Owner and gallery director Lena Kolobow has opened with a Russian artist more used to exhibiting in Soho, New York and Beverly Hills, Los Angeles. This is Yevgenia Nayberg's first show in Canada.

By profession, Nayberg is a scenographer and costume designer with more than 30 theatrical productions on her resumé. Her work is very theatrical and has an intimate touch of the whole culture of the theatre behind it.

"In my work, I feel very connected to literature," said Nayberg. "I have always been captivated by a verbal metaphor. I look for a visual equivalent of a word, for poetic translation into the language of visual art. I'm interested in imagery that, unlike literature, is without narrative yet conveys a feeling just as strongly. Plotless paintings transform into still metaphors."

Originally from Russia, Nayberg received a Fine



MOTHER RUSSIA. Artist Yevgenia Nayberg's 'Boy With an Airplane' is one of a number of paintings by the Russian-born artist on display at Chancery Art Gallery in Bracebridge.

Submitted photo

Arts degree from The National School of Arts in Kiev. Then, in the United States, she studied theatre design at Carnegie Mellon University, and received a Masters of Fine Arts degree in theatre design from California State University.

Back in 1999, shortly after graduation, Nayberg was selected to represent the United States at the prestigious Prague Quadrennial of Stage Design. She was nomi-

nated for the 2004 Ovation Award for her set design for *A Winter People*. She also is a recent recipient of The National Endowment for the Arts/TCG Fellowship for theatre designers.

Nayberg exhibits worldwide and her works are in private collections in the United States and Europe.

Nayberg's exhibition, *Role Play*, runs until August 12 at the gallery located on Chancery Lane, Bracebridge.