

Magical realism appears on canvas

If Dragan Sekaric Shex's work looks familiar to some it is because it recently appeared on bestselling wines at the LCBO.

In 2005 he was the winner of the Hillebrand wine label competition, with his paintings reproduced on gamay noir and pinot gris bottles.

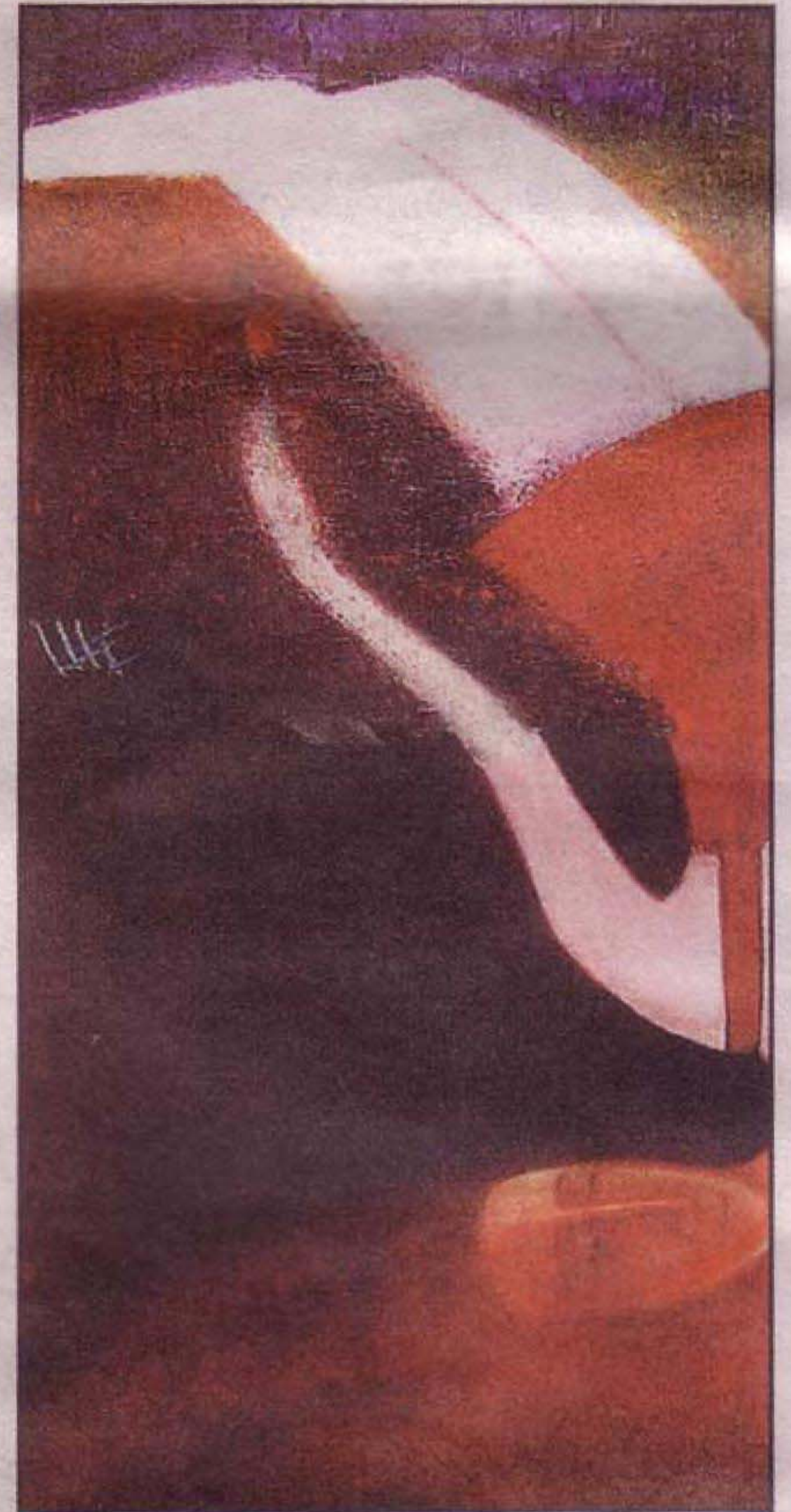
A couple of his original oils appeared at the Chancery Gallery's Déjà Vu show earlier this year and now Sekaric will be holding a solo exhibition until June 29 at the gallery in Bracebridge.

Shex is a versatile Canadian artist who was educated and trained in Europe. He is recognized by his use of the sfumato style, an Italian term for a painting technique that overlays translucent layers of colour to create perceptions of depth, volume and form.

Born in the former Yugoslavia, Sekaric received his university degree in architecture and fine art from the School of Architecture in Sarajevo. While enjoying architecture, he left the profession to study oil painting in Rome, believing his creativity

and talent would be better expressed in fine art.

Sekaric's style has been described as magical realism by a number of critics. The term refers to the attempt to seize the mystery that breathes behind or within our everyday world. His earlier paintings are comments on modern wars and human suffering. The human concern is always present in his work, but the atmosphere is more colourful and poetic in his more recent paintings.



BOTTLED ART. The work of artist Dragan Sekaric Shex may be well known to many after appearing on a number of wine labels in 2005. Submitted photo