



PRESS RELEASE

December 6, 2007

A Painting to Dress In"

As a professional artist, Valeria MRAVYAN exhibited in *Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Arts (Japan)*, *Frankfurt Messe (Germany)*, *Chagall House (Israel)*, *Krimsky Most Gallery (Russia)*, *Monserrat Gallery (NY, USA)*, *Los Gatos Museum of Art (CA, USA)*, to name a few out of Canada galleries.

Some critics find her paintings to have a delicate touch of classical Russian **constructivism**; Some emphasize a flavour of interesting multi-cultural "symbiosis"; Some point to her expressive **freedom** of sharing how she feels...

Perhaps all this appears fairly true. However, there still seems to be **a bit of an intrigue** around Valeria's paintings. One gripping detail could be probably exposed in this context:

When you see more of Valeria's oils, an odd idea emerges: **She does not actually "paint on canvas" – she "paints the canvas."** Consequently, it awakes a temptation not only to look at them, but to touch them, to be dressed in them – **canvas converts into silk, wool, batiste...** Unsurprisingly though, bearing in mind that all her life as an artist she... dyes the textile.

A daughter of **Moscow intellectuals** (father – a writer and artist; mother – a literature translator), Valeria spent her childhood among the books, fine art museums, classical music, and the adults' disputes of **timeless issues** – good and evil, beautiful and ugly, wise and dull, etc. At age 19, Valeria earned her first professional artist's diploma from the *Industrial Arts College*; at 26 she got a **master's degree in applied arts** from the *Moscow State Textile Institute*. Since then, Valeria happened to change cities and countries before she settled in Toronto (Canada), but through all the years she was doing what she does the best – **turning a plain fabric into the Art.**

* * *

This will be Valeria's **first show in Muskoka** (from December 19 to January 12). For this exhibition – "*Dreamland*" – Chancery Art Gallery has selected mostly paintings with "fairytales" associations, congruent to the spirit of the Holiday Season. Some of her watercolors, tapestry and batik* works will be also presented. You can **meet the artist** at the exhibition **opening reception** on Friday, December 21, from 4 PM to 7 PM.

* **Batiks** from Valeria's collection will be shown in the gallery from December 12 to 20, prior to the solo exhibition of her paintings.



PRESS RELEASE

November 6, 2007

Without betting into the Verbal

"Humanity has aspired to a great many things, and we have all benefited from that aspiration. However, when we bring our assumptions, plans and desires to human relations, we are forever betrayed, not by our friends and loved ones, but by our misplaced expectations of others."

March Gregoroff considers her work as based upon the fundamental human tendency of **Anticipation and Disappointment**, and the resultant joy when we free ourselves of this cyclical burden; therefore, she attempts to use her paintings to **make the Buddhist thought more accessible** to art lovers on a visceral level – to be understood visually, without betting into the Verbal.

"... The ripe fruit, on the point of decay, and the prettily decomposing backgrounds of my work represent that tipping point of joyful anticipation and the ugly reality of all our dreams gone wrong. I find that food and the way I show it is the natural expression for all of the concepts that guide my own life; concepts that challenge me while bringing great peace and happiness..."

Using oil paints on canvas, March depicts the joy and disillusionment of everyday life through the metaphor of common objects. **Combining abstract and realist components**, she attempts to reconcile the changeability of life.

You could see her works exhibited in Toronto, Montréal, New York or California. Now for the **first time** her paintings will be shown **in Muskoka**.

March Gregoroff
Toronto

"State of Calm"

oil on canvas, solo exhibition
november 14 – december 8

Opening reception with the artist:
Thursday, November 15, from 4 PM to 7 PM

Gallery is open through Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-2pm and 3pm-6pm
Ph: 705-646-0514 or 613-292-8752; www.ChanceryArt.com



PRESS RELEASE

October 14, 2007

ARE AMERICANS SAVING MUSKOKA?

Perhaps you noticed in a recent issue of "*The Muskokan*" (Oct. 4th)* an article about new rather **controversial documentary "An American in Muskoka."** Following the publication, a **public meeting with the author, filmmaker Norman Lofts** will occur in Bracebridge next week:

- Fragments of the film will be shown;
- Informal disputes about Muskoka "Before & Now" are anticipated;
- Related issues of the **Local Politics, Heritage, Real Estate philosophy** and associated **Sociological Dynamics** are expected among the discussion topics;
- The DVD's of the film will be available*** with the author's autograph;
- Prominent photographer Tim Du Vernet will exhibit his view of Muskoka.

Thus, you may want to stop by and to share your insights or sentiments about Muskoka "Before & Now"; you also may simply enjoy the movie and observe what other locals think and feel in this regard.

The gathering will take place on Wednesday, October 24th, from 4 to 7 p.m. at *Chancery Art Gallery**** (10 Chancery Lane in downtown Bracebridge)

R.S.V.P.

CHANCERY ART GALLERY
705 646-0514
613 292-8752
www.ChanceryArt.com

* Newspaper "*The Muskokan*" seems to be out of the Internet at this moment, but you still can find some details about "*An American in Muskoka*" from the **author's Press Release** posted at www.chanceryart.com/An_American_in_Muskoka.pdf

** This event is entirely **NON-PROFIT**: All proceeds from the DVD sale (\$25 a copy) will be forwarded by the author, Norman Lofts to a **charity**; DVDs are now available at *Chancery Art Gallery*.

*** *Chancery Art Gallery* has no monetary benefit from this event; Corporate or Municipal **donations** for covering the **Gallery expenses on hosting community events** will not be rejected.



PRESS RELEASE

September 18, 2007

STOP THE EXISTENCE, REGISTER THE NARRATIVE

"... We live in a world of disposability. We go through our lives bombarded by media imagery that reflects our world in a fleeting forgettable manner. This body of work is a reaction to this environment. Using the city as a point of departure, I explore how to stop the quick moving existence... These works exist and their goal is to mark a moment of time. Through the use of texture, color, and contrasts of light, I want to stop the viewer in their tracks and register the narrative."

For Marjolyn **van der Hart**, **Toronto-based artist**, paintings are more than just snapshots of time or place. They should also be the jumping off point for a lush narrative journey that evokes memories, whether real or imagined. "*Painting for me is a form of communication*," she says. "*It's a way of expressing my subconscious reflections of our culture*." From cyclists riding past cafés to children playing, couples in courtyards or the throes of courtship, her medium and large scale **impressionist** paintings emit the warmth of romance and comforts of home. "*There's a familiarity to my work and I enter it that way*," she explains. "*The basis of the work is romance and romance comes from a place of escape so impressionism works in that context and the choice of subjects also works from that context*."

The idea is to find that transient memory or **create memories** for viewers. "*When images dissolve into one another it's all about memory and we never really see a thing for very long*," Marjolyn explains. "*It's also about shifting spaces; they way riding a bike past a café reminds you of another place, time and experience*."

A mass communications and art history graduate, Marjolyn says her work came from a desire to define a **female experience and perspective**. "*The things I love are small hidden spaces*," she explains of her subject matter. "*Alleys, doorways, always intimate space and lately the architecture stuff are blowing it open and the way people move in the architecture*." While her paintings reflect familiar urban settings and streetscapes and are derived from a modern, European sensibility, they never feature cars, vehicles or factories. "*Everything I paint has a protective element to it so I don't do vistas, fields, fields and open sky. I do places you can walk into where you're protected by the doorways, the buildings. It's a very female perspective and very domestic*," she admits. But the appeal is universal.

Marjolyn grew up in Oakville, ON, the daughter of painter John van der Hart, noted for his abstract landscape watercolours. "*I learned a lot about the business of art by growing up with professional artist*," she says. Now she is painting full-time from her studio in Toronto's historic Distillery District. She exhibits widely in the United States and in Canada and her works contribute to many corporate **collections** (*IBM, Merrill Lynch, CN Rail Ltd., Rogers Communications*, to name a few) as well as private collections throughout Europe and North America. She has been granted numerous professional **awards**, including several "*Best of Show*," both in the US and Canada.

This is her **first solo exhibition in Muskoka**: "*Shadow of Your Steps*" (September 26 – October 21). For this show, *Chancery Art Gallery* has selected mostly urban themes of **European flavour with some romantic and nostalgic touch**. You can meet the artist at the exhibition opening reception on Thursday, September 27, from 4 PM to 7 PM.



PRESS RELEASE

September 13, 2007

"The Only Possible Teacher Except Torture..."

Bernard Shaw used to say: "*The only possible teacher except torture is fine art.*" He definitely had a point. Besides, it is not a secret: **arts improve health**. *The British Medical Journal* recently provided another valuable argument to support this claim. It even suggests that a diversion of a small portion of the **health budget** to the arts would probably increase the health of the population. A tempting idea indeed. However, the general public seems to be **in ignorance**: the Canadian Forum on Arts and Health found that most people are still not aware of the benefits of the arts in relation to health and well-being...

From the Freudian view, arts derive from the same source as **fantasies and dreams**, and have the same purpose – to reduce **tension in the soul**. This applies to both creation and perception of the art, regardless of modality – painting, sculpture, literature, music, dance, etc. Thus, in some respects artists are not special – like the rest of us, they have the same **narcissistic desires** and fantasies, rather shameful to share under our cultural restraints. But unlike us, artists have a very special gift – they are able to exhibit their fantasies in a skilful, camouflaged way, and to attract us first with external, formal side of their work. It traps us, provoking a preliminary, properly aesthetic pleasure, turning our internal "censor" off guard. And then, it enables us to enjoy our own deep prohibited fantasies – projected on the art – without shame and self-blame, with **revealing catharsis**. How are artists able to do this? It's their **mystic secret**; it's art.

Therefore, some people would probably agree with a widespread psychoanalytical expression: "... *The one thing which may in some degree reconcile the cultured person with life - scientific and artistic enjoyment...*"

* * *

By the way, you do not necessarily have to go to New York City or Europe to enjoy the real contemporary art: right here in Muskoka - for a limited time left, though - you can see, or even perhaps acquire the canvas which normally are exhibited at galleries in **Soho**, **Beverly Hills** and **Stockholm**, appeared on TV and have been reviewed in the **New York Times**.

In August, The Muskokan newspaper has announced *Chancery Art Gallery* as "**Muskoka's newest gallery**." In September, it has been awarded as the "**Business of the Month**" by YWCA Muskoka. This gallery on Chancery Lane in downtown Bracebridge is being run by two psychology doctors and master of architecture.

Gallery is open through Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-2pm and 3pm-6pm
Ph: 705-646-0514; www.ChanceryArt.com



PRESS RELEASE

September 5, 2007

"Stolen" from *Warner Bros. Television*

When *Warner Bros. Television* had asked permission for shooting some original paintings in their new coming popular TV series, the artist's answer was "**No**".

Actually, his answer was: "*I'd love to, but I can not give you all the painting you want since most of them have already been reserved by a gallery in Canada for my coming exhibition...*" Consequently, the *Warner Bros.* had to pick their second choice from his remaining works.

DETAILS

In a few weeks, *Warner Bros.* will be presenting "**Gossip Girl**," which is expected to be "one of the top new fall shows."¹ Based on the popular book series of the same name, this drama² gives viewers a peek into the world of privileged teenagers attending elite private school in New York City, as told through the eyes of an anonymous blogger. Among other characters, the father of one of the girls owns an art gallery. To shoot the related scenes, *Warner Bros.* were looking for some art pieces suggestive of the spirit of a real Manhattan gallery. Therefore, they addressed New York artist **Mikhail Gubin** with an offer of contract to use some of his works in this new episode. However, the artist's answer was: "*No... I'd love to, but most of the paintings you want have already been selected by Chancery Art Gallery for my coming exhibition in Canada...*" Thus, the *Warner Bros.* had to make their second choice from his remaining works...

OPPORTUNITY

You do not have to go to New York City to enjoy the real contemporary art. Right here, in **Muskoka**, you can see, or even perhaps acquire the canvas so craved by the *Warner Bros. Television - West Side, Brooklyn Bridge and West 32nd Street*³ - among other Gubin's works at his personal exhibition "*It's Up To You, New York*" at **Chancery Art Gallery**⁴. The exhibition runs until September 22nd.

¹ According to CTV's Fall Schedule, **Canada will get day early airings** of two drama premiers that are highly anticipated. The *Gossip Girl* will be airing at 8pm on Tuesday, September 18th. This is a day earlier than its September 19th premiere on The CW in the US.

² The story by The O.C.'s Josh Schwartz and Stephanie Savage, directed by Mark Piznarski who has worked on series like Everwood and Veronica Mars. Details available at
<http://www.tv.com/gossip-girl/show/68744/summary.html>
<http://www.poptower.com/tv/gossip-girl.htm>
<http://www.tvguide.com/tvshows/gossip-girl/288136>

³ If you wish to use images of the named above paintings in your topic-related publication, this document grants you the permission. We can provide the images on your request, or you may download them directly from the gallery's web site:
www.ChanceryArt.com/G_West_Side.jpg
www.ChanceryArt.com/G_Brooklyn_Bridge.jpg
www.ChanceryArt.com/G_West_32nd.jpg

⁴ *Chancery Art Gallery* is a newly opened "new-york-style-gallery" in downtown Bracebridge, Muskoka, ON



PRESS RELEASE

August 15, 2007

Hi from NY

- To some his paintings remind of the Die Brücke (*The Bridge*) movement of **German expressionists** at the beginning of the 20th century
- For some they resemble the **neo-expressionist revival** of the 1970-80s
- Some note that his beautifully scumbled, delicately coloured shapes reminiscent of Diebenkorn and de Kooning
- Though, **famous sculptor Ernst Neizvestny** believes that "*...Gubin's work occupies a unique place in which there is synthesis of freedom of expression and feelings and true artistic professionalism*"

Despite all of the art-theoretical interpretation and elucidation, a recent review in the *Baltimore Arts & Culture* was perhaps right to the point: "*Gubin really knows how to move paint around...*"

Beside the official recognition - world-wide exhibitions, numerous professional awards, reviews in the **New York Times** - Mr. Gubin seems to enjoy mostly the fact that one of his paintings ("*Tango Argentina*") has been selected by film director **Al Pacino** for display in the movie "*Devil's Advocate*"...

From August 24 to September 22
you can see 20 oils on canvas by Mikhail Gubin
selected by the *Chancery Art Gallery**
for his solo exhibition

"It's Up to you, New York"

For this show we have selected mostly paintings (oil on canvas) of Manhattan urban landscapes, although other themes are also presented to reflect "NY multi-facet face" - flowers, race track, still life, and even award-wining "*My cat*"...

Opening reception with the artist:
Friday, August 24, from 4 PM to 7 PM



PRESS RELEASE

July 24, 2007

THEATRE ON CANVAS:

*"Plotless paintings transform
into still metaphors...."*

- In New York City she is represented by Grant Gallery in **Soho**
- In Los Angeles her work can be seen at Dafne Gallery in **Beverly Hills**
- In Sweden she is shown by Gunnrammat Gallery in **Stockholm**
- Her paintings are now exhibited for the **first time in Canada**.

What makes her works so different and exclusive? Perhaps, some an intimate touch of the whole culture of the theatre behind it. By profession, Yevgenia Nayberg is a scenographer and costume designer with **over 30 theatrical productions** on her Resume.

"In my work, I feel very connected to literature. 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, Yevgenia received her Fine 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 her MFA degree in Theatre Design from *California State University*.

Back in 1999, shortly after the graduation, Yevgenia **was selected to represent the United States** at the prestigious *Prague Quadrennial of Stage Design*. She was nominated for 2004 *Ovation Award* for her Set Design for *A Winter People*, produced by *Theatre@Boston Court*. She also is a recent recipient of *The National Endowment for the Arts/TCG Fellowship* for theatre designers.

Magazine *LA Stage* lists Yevgenia Nayberg **among the top "most influential" stage designers in the United States**.

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

Yevgenia NAYBERG
New York

"ROLE PLAY"

oil on canvas, solo exhibition
july 18 - august 12

Opening reception with the artist:
Thursday, July 19, from 4 PM to 7 PM