

PRESS RELEASE

July 25, 2008

Pat FAIRHEAD (Toronto – Muskoka)

BLOOMSBURY AT CHARLESTON with *Vanessa Bell & Virginia Woolf*

Solo exhibition, watercolours: 2008 August 13 – 31.

Opening Reception on Thursday, August 14 from 5 to 7 PM; The artist will speak at 6 PM.

SHADOWS OF BLOOMSBURY

During the first half of the twentieth century, a few recent Cambridge graduates and their closest friends who happened to reside in the **Bloomsbury** district of London, England, would assemble on a few nights a week for some drinks and conversation about the nature of consciousness and its relation to external nature, about the fundamental separateness of individuals that involves both isolation and love, about the human and non-human nature of time and death, and about the ideal goods of truth love and beauty.

Among them were novelists and essayists Virginia Woolf, E. M. Forster, and Mary MacCarthy, the biographer and essayist Lytton Strachey, the economist John Maynard Keynes, the painters Vanessa Bell, Duncan Grant, and Roger Fry, and the critics of literature, art, economy and politics, Desmond MacCarthy, Clive Bell, and Leonard Woolf. This is how the **Bloomsbury Group** started, and later deeply influenced 20th century Western literature, aesthetics, criticism and economics, as well as attitudes towards feminism, pacifism, and sexuality.

In 1916 Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant moved from London to **Charleston Farmhouse**, which became a place of Bloomsbury gatherings. Now it is a Mecca for intellectuals from around the world. Distinguished

Canadian painter, **Pat Fairhead** had visited it several times back in 90s. Her collection of watercolours of the Charleston Farmhouse garden with shadows of Bloomsbury members was exhibited in the US, but this exhibition at Chancery Art Gallery during 2008 August 13-31 is its first public show in Canada.

Pat FAIRHEAD is an elected member of the *Royal Canadian Academy of Art*, and an active (and of the first women!) member of the famous *Arts and Letters Club* of Toronto, with members of the *Group of Seven*. Pat Fairhead is considered to be one of the top woman painters in Canada, her work can be found in *Windsor Castle*, many private and over 200 corporate collections.

Born in Yorkshire, England, Pat Fairhead came to Canada as a child. After living in Toronto most of her life, a few years ago she bought a house/studio in Muskoka. She continues to travel, paint, and teach the art.

*"The only possible teacher
except torture is fine art"*

Bernard Shaw

The Doctor's Dilemma

Chancery Art Gallery is a commercial gallery which accepts original works of contemporary fine art on consignment and acts as the artist's non-exclusive agent for exhibition and sales.

The gallery is affiliated with a psychology office on premises – www.PrivateCounseling.ca Occasionally, for "artist-in-crisis" a psychological consultation is offered *pro-bono*.

*"...The one thing which may
in some degree reconcile the
cultured person with life –
scientific and artistic enjoyment..."*

Eduard von Hartmann

Philosophy of the Unconscious

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 the 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.

The gallery's mission:

*"Piece of pie to the artists,
Peace of mind to the rest of us"*

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Dr. Lena Kolobov
owner & director

Dr. Paul Ivanoff
curator

