

PRESS RELEASE

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RETROSPECTIVE: ART & WAR

War in Georgia has just stopped, but tears are still there. Deeply shocked by witnessing the tragedy, Georgian artist **Soso Nadiradze** sadly confessed, *"I probably will never be able to paint again..."* This spoken by an artist with a rare gift *"... to express happiness with such ease ..."* – a remark of a young local visitor of Soso's recent personal exhibition.



A rather opposite spiritual reaction on a war had **Dragan Sekaric**, quoted as saying: *"... I started to paint when I witnessed the beginning of the Bosnian war... This war was not an ordinary war, but a civil war... To see people change to the point where they long to destroy another human being that just yesterday was their friend is the worst form of witnessing... I had to paint... In moments of afflictions, it abates the pain and is a means of spiritual and material survival."*



Paintings of both artists are on display at *Chancery Art Gallery* in downtown Bracebridge (Muskoka) in the past-summer retrospective **"Lazy Cottager."** This show is offered for those Muskoka summer residents who missed summer exhibitions but now finally managed to leave their lake cottages, golf courses, tennis courts, yacht clubs, etc...

The show highlights the recent gallery exhibits, including artwork of **Pat Fairhead, March Gregoroff, Hawa Kaba, John Kokkinos, Andrea Maguire, Valeria Mravyan, Soso Nadiradze, Dragan Sekaric** and **Leon Soriano**.

In addition to the summer retrospective, the exhibition also introduces a new gallery artist, **Mike Bell** – an art professor from England, who rarely uses a brush; but uses a finger, knife, trowel, sand, spray paints as well as builder's materials to create impasto surfaces on his seascapes. Mike Bell extensively exhibits in UK, Europe, Australia, UAE and USA, and now for the first time his work is available to Canadians.



*"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 Kolobow
owner & director

Dr. Paul Ivanoff
curator

Gallery is open to the public: Tue & Thu 12–8 PM, Wed & Fri 12–5 PM, Sat 10 AM–2 PM.

