

## PRESS RELEASE

**August 11 – September 11, 2021**  
at Chancery Art Gallery in downtown Bracebridge

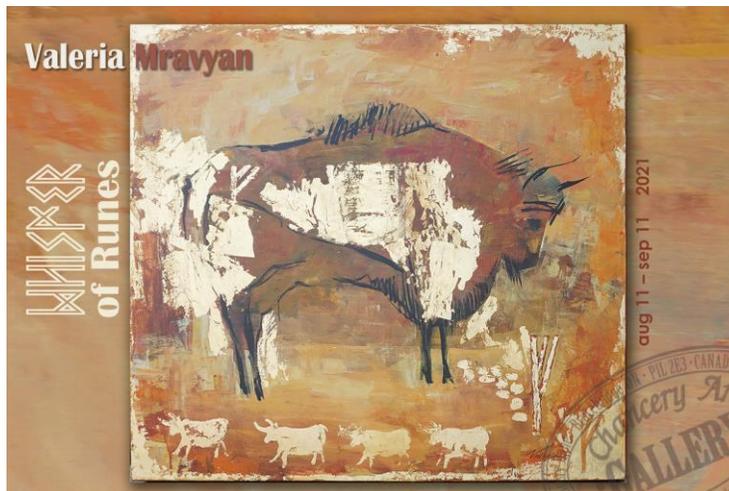
**“Whisper of Runes”**  
solo exhibition –  
painting by  
**Valeria MRAVYAN**

**Reception with the artist:**  
**Thursday, August 19, 5-7 PM**

Besides many Canadian galleries, Valeria 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).

Valeria happened to change cities and countries before she settled in the heart of historically and artistically renowned Kleinburg Village, ON, where she works from her studio/gallery. Her art work can be seen in private and public collections.

Find more at  
[www.ValeriaMravyan.com](http://www.ValeriaMravyan.com)



announcement postcard (available in the gallery)  
© by Valeria MRAVYAN. *Opulent.*  
Acrylic on canvas with golden leaf, 40"x 40"

### WHAT ARE RUNES?

**Rune stones** are an ancient proto-Germanic tradition dating back to potentially the 1st century AD. They consist of a runic alphabet of 24 letters, usually made out of wood or stone that were used as a method of fortune-telling and protection sigils. The first completion of the total alphabet was the Elder Futhark runes in the 5th century AD, that are most often used still today, and then the Younger Futhark stones were adapted by the Vikings and other Nordic tribes and continued until Medieval times. They are said to be based off of Old Latin inscriptions. Rune stones are full of powerful and magical history, and so were highly venerated and used with extreme caution. In the Norse cultures and across other Northern Europeans, it was believed that they held strong divinatory powers and as such were taken very seriously.

The origin of word “rune” stems from the Germanic word for “mystery” or “secret”, and similar findings are present in Old Irish Gaelic, Welsh and Old English, sometimes also meaning “miracle”. In Lithuanian it can mean “to speak”, and in Finnish it can also mean “poem”.

These days, runes are used as a method of connecting to one’s higher self, inner guidance and tapping into intuition as a method of foretelling what the future may hold and offering advice (similar to **Tarot Cards**). Read on for our guide to what are the rune meanings and how to use them for yourself!

*“The only possible teacher  
except torture is fine art”*  
Bernard Shaw  
*The Doctor’s Dilemma*

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 one thing which may  
in some degree reconcile the  
cultured person with life –  
scientific and artistic enjoyment...”*  
Eduard von Hartmann  
*Philosophy of the Unconscious*

Chancery Art Gallery is a commercial gallery which offers solo and group exhibitions of contemporary fine art and acts as the artist’s agent with exclusivity limited to Muskoka district of Ontario, Canada.

The gallery is affiliated with a psychology office on premises – [www.PrivateCounseling.ca](http://www.PrivateCounseling.ca) Occasionally, for “artist-in-crisis” a psychological consultation is offered *pro-bono*.

The gallery’s mission:  
*“Piece of pie to the artists,  
Peace of mind to the rest of us”*

Dr. Lena Kolobov  
owner & director  
Dr. Paul Ivanoff  
curator

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