

Press Release

new work in **Loop Gallery**

September 27 to October 19, 2003

Opening Saturday, September 27, 2003 2-5 pm

1174 Queen St. W., Toronto, On. M6J 1J5. Tel.: 416/516-2581

Gallery hours: Wed.-Sat. 1:00 PM-5:00 PM. Sun.: 1:00 PM-4:00 PM

Maria Gabankova: Phone: 416/535-8063, Fax: 416/530-0069,

e-mail: gabankova@paintinggalleries.net and www.paintinggalleries.net



Maria Gabankova: New work on the theme of the book of Revelation

Then the fourth angel sounded: and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. (Revelation 8:12)

Plagues, wars, famines, earthquakes, floods, fires, murders - all that sounds like much of our daily news. Yet, these same catastrophic events are also described in many Biblical texts, such as the *Book of Revelation* or the *Apocalypse*. My paintings in this exhibition are the beginning of a series on the themes of the Book of Revelation. More specifically I have focused on some of the Angels - Messengers - who appear throughout John's vision. The layers of events in this book are complex referring to the present and to the future. The figures in my paintings do not represent literally angels of the text but are inspired at times by several angels, symbols or acts at once; for example the sounding of trumpets, the plagues bowls, destroying fire, the chain binding Satan. I think of these paintings as visual meditations on the meaning of the Revelation and spiritual reality as experienced in our present time.

Gabankova is an astute observer of humanity. She is perceptive about the concrete flesh and blood world, as well as the internal spiritual realm which together constitute our lives as human beings...

This work is philosophical in that it looks for places of meaning in life, it probes beyond the fragmentations of life in a search for coherence and harmony. In doing this it acknowledges the truth about our existence as fragile and vulnerable. Whether in the depiction of the human figure or of ordinary objects we encounter, the play of light and shadow stands out in these paintings. It is a light and darkness present not only in what is seen with the eye, but also in what is experienced in the soul.

These are strong works, compelling, insightful and deeply spiritual. They serve as windows into the mystery of human existence. They are born out of a sense of wonder and a hopeful spirit, and they bring the observer to look afresh at what it means to be human. They call us to nurture a spirit of hope. In these works we sense that life is not a possession to be grasped but rather a gift to be received, a miracle that inspires us to gratitude.

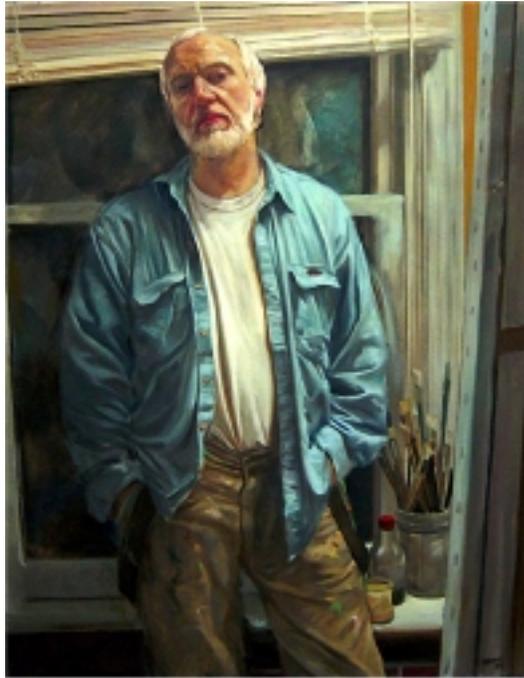
John Franklin - professor of philosophy, executive director of Imago, Toronto

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Lorne Toews: Phone: (905) 627-5776, E-mail: lornetoews@hotmail.com



Lorne Toews: Recent work

Lorne Toews is primarily interested in exploring the human form in his paintings. Ever since the rediscovery of Greek and Roman sculpture in the 15th century artists have continually worked from the human form. The subtleties of colour and tone, the variety of forms and contours offer the artist an inexhaustible source of inspiration. It is a subject that is close to us all. We all inhabit a body and as such it is a subject of universal interest.

The human figure is a wonderful subject to draw and paint. It is also particularly difficult subject to do well. Weaknesses are unfailingly exposed. It demands discipline and focus. It also requires (at least for Lorne) an approach that is both objective and subjective in nature. The bringing together of these two opposing attitudes make the figure a particularly challenging and fascinating subject.

Lorne Toews studied at the School of Art at the University of Manitoba and at Indiana University where he received a MFA. He presently teaches drawing and painting at the Ontario College of Art and Design. He has exhibited in both Canada and the USA and has works in public and private collections in both countries.