

**Loop Gallery presents:
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

John Abrams

Mark Adair

Elizabeth Babyn

Yael Brotman

Kelly Cade

Laura Ciruls

Gary Clement

Tanya Cunnington

Elizabeth D'Agostino

Chris Dow

Martha Eleen

Adrian Fish

Maria Gabankova

Candida Girling

Libby Hague

Linda Heffernan

Sung Ja Kim

J.J. Lee

Richard Mongiat

Wil Murray

Mary Catherine Newcomb

Liz Parkinson

Maureen Paxton

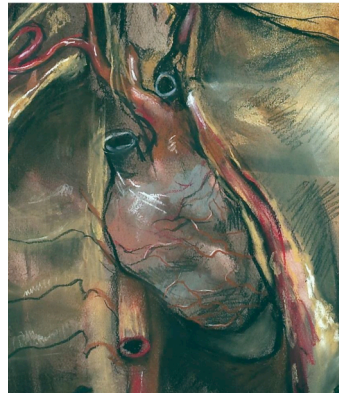
Sasha Pierce

Barbara Rehus

Thelma Rosner

Rochelle Rubinstein

Shamsi Shahrokhi



Maria Gabankova *Labyrinth of the heART*

January 12 – February 3, 2008

Reception & Book Launch: Saturday January 12, 2 - 5 PM

Loop Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition and book launch by **Maria Gabankova** entitled *Labyrinth of the heART*, a selection of drawings and paintings featured in a recently published book **body broken body redeemed** by Piquant Editions Publisher in Great Britain on Gabankova's Art.

This second volume in the Piquant Editions VISIBILIA series of 'visual biographies' features over 50 full-colour reproductions of paintings and installations by Czech-born Canadian artist Maria Gabankova. Introduction by John Franklin.

'Gabankova's theology, like her art, sounds a wake-up call. It calls us to pay attention to the state of our world and the signs of our times. Nobody who passes by her art can fail to be touched, shaken or, indeed, shocked by the power of her imagery. It is, in one word, wake-up-art. More than that, however, it is an invitation to our tired, fragile and broken bodies to join the wedding banquet of the Body Broken For You, so that we can be fully re-nourished and redeemed.'

-- Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin

In 2003 Maria Gabankova travelled to Colmar, Alsace, France and visited the Unterlinden Museum with the purpose to study the Issenheim Altarpiece by Matthias Grünewald. She was commissioned to paint a large copy (94" x 108") of Crucifixion panel for the Biblical Museum of Canada in Vancouver, BC. She completed this work in the summer 2007 and it will be part of the exhibition at Loop Gallery. This painting has had a profound influence on Gabankova's work and its spiritual content and expressive power relates to the themes of her previous work.

The exhibition's title *Labyrinth of the heART* pays homage to a literary allegory *Labyrinth of the World and Paradise of the Heart* by the 17th century Czech philosopher, educator and theologian Jan Amos Comenius.

Maria Gabankova lives and works in Toronto, Canada, where she also teaches figure drawing, painting and portraiture at the Ontario College of Art and Design. She has worked as a professional artist and has exhibited her drawings and paintings in Canada and internationally since 1980. Her work is represented in private and corporate collections in Canada, USA and Europe.

Loop Gallery

1174 Queen Street West, one block east of Gladstone.

Gallery Hours: Wed - Sat 1 to 5 pm, and Sun 1 to 4pm. Artist is in attendance on Sundays.

For more information please contact the gallery at 416-516-2581 or loopgallery@primus.ca.

For more information on Loop Gallery, please see our website at www.loopgallery.ca.