

John Abrams

Mark Adair

Elizabeth Babyn

Gareth Bate

Lorène Bourgeois

Yael Brotman

Kelly Cade

Heather Carey

Gary Clement

Tara Cooper

Tanya Cunningham

Elizabeth D'Agostino

Sheryl Dudley

Larry Eisenstein

Martha Eleen

Eric Farache

Maria Gabankova

Candida Girling

Sandra Gregson

Charles Hackbarth

Libby Hague

Linda Heffernan

David Holt

Sung Ja Kim

JJ Lee

Jane LowBeer

Ingrid Mida

Ian McLean

Suzanne Nacha

Mary Catherine Newcomb

Ester Pugliese

Barbara Rehus

Rochelle Rubinstein

Lanny Shereck

Yvonne Singer

Sandra Smirle

Adrienne Trent

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

loop Gallery presents:



Maria Gabankova

Memento Mori

February 4 – February 26, 2012

Reception: Saturday, February 4, 2- 5 PM

Q&A with Libby Hague
Moderated by John Armstrong
Sunday February 12, 2 PM

*Dedicated to the memory of: Czech president Vaclav Havel,
writer Josef Skvorecky, and my father, artist Jozef Gabanek.*

loop Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition by **loop** member **Maria Gabankova** entitled *Memento Mori*

Lush marks of oil sticks and oil paint on mylar contrast with stark visualisations of *Memento Mori*. They offer a reflection that can be used to put one's life in a larger perspective, that of immortality.

Images of female figures oscillate between sorrow and hope, life and death, in silence or in a scream. Their inner enigma and tensions compel a gleam of hope, a light to disperse the darkness. The foot of a smiling female sculpture stands victoriously on a human skull - subjugating death.

"My recent work in this exhibition responds in part to the research I did in 2011 in Kuks, a baroque architectural complex in the Czech Republic. Fascinated by the genius loci of Kuks I decided to interpret the theme of *Virtues and Vices*, baroque sculptures by Mathias Braun.

In the context of my earlier work, I am interested in how the *divine mystery can be plunged into most ordinary, day-to-day appearance* (Pascal Quignard: *Georges de la Tour*). How the figure of Mary Magdalene with her passions and contemplation is present in every ordinary woman of today. How is the reality and mystery of death thought of in our contemporary society."

Maria Gabankova was born in former Czechoslovakia. She lives and works in Toronto, where she also teaches figure drawing, painting and portraiture at the Ontario College of Art and Design University. In addition to being a founding member of the **loop** Gallery, Gabankova has also been invited to sit on juries, panel discussions, conferences, and work in film and theatre. She has worked as a professional artist and exhibited her drawings and paintings in Canada and internationally since 1980. Her work is represented in private and corporate collections in Canada, USA, South Korea and Europe. In 2011 a solo exhibition of her work entitled *Parable of the Body* was held at the Charles University in Hradec Králové, Czech Republic. (www.paintinggalleries.ca)

"Unnoticed things and revealing those things is for me a way of truth telling."
-Lucian Freud

Image: *Silence, oil sticks on mylar, 34 x 36 inches, 2011*

loop Thanks

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loop Gallery

1273 Dundas Street West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M6J 1X8 (3 doors west of Dovercourt).

Gallery Hours: Wed - Sat 12 to 5 pm, and Sun 1 to 4pm. Artist is in attendance on Sundays and for the reception.

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

www.loopgallery.ca