

## PRESS RELEASE

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# HIS PAINTINGS ARE ALIVE... ART & MUSIC FROM GEORGIA

In Georgian folk and church music the practice of polyphony (multi-voice harmony) dates back to the 7th century AD, three centuries before it appeared in Western Europe – the polyphonic singing simply stopped at Georgia's borders. An explanation has eluded musicologists for generations and remains a mystery to this day...

Just released CD *"Songs of Georgia"* by trio **ZARI** ("bell") is played during solo exhibition *"THE VILLAGE"* by Georgian painter Ioseb (Soso) Nadiradze at *Chancery Art Gallery*.

**Ioseb (Soso) Nadiradze** is a professional artist with Master's Degree from prestigious *Tbilisi Academy of Fine Arts*. Besides the painting, he is an art designer at *Georgian Film* – movie company highly famed for its delicate artistic and philosophical concept (remember films of Otar Iosseliani?..)

Some critics note that works of Soso are somewhat reminiscent of Mark Chagall. Although Soso considers it as a pleasing compliment, he feels that his own artistic roots derived mainly from the frescos in ancient Georgian churches (as official religion, Christianity was adopted there as early as in 4th century, and cathedrals were decorated by Georgian native – not Byzantine – painters). Almost as his own "genetic memory," he undergoes the poetic and philosophical inspirations of Shota Rustaveli, the greatest Georgian intellectual of 12th century. Soso believes it is Niko Pirosmani (1862-1918) who has enabled him to apprehend that reality is actually not as apparent as it seems to appear...



*"While I am painting, there are moments when my hand suddenly starts to move by itself, without asking my permission." And after it finally returns back under my conscious control, it surprisingly seems like the painting is mostly completed... Such mysterious episodes do not last long (otherwise, it would be insanity), but this is what I actually define as 'Happiness'."*

Some of his oils appear like ancient frescos, but feel absolutely contemporary. Some, on first glance, "abstracts" surprisingly turn into totally realistic Nudes. Viewers are puzzled: is there an intriguing love story behind the Cow pregnant with a Fish, or maybe better to apply here the Biblical interpretations based on symbols of early Christianity?

*"Paintings are, in fact, living creatures: they breathe, think and talk, (although, in some inexplicable international tongue). That's why I suppose the artists should better keep silence, letting the art to speak instead,"* says Soso.

To note, his canvases seem to be alive indeed...

Ioseb (Soso) Nadiradze's paintings are in private collections across the Europe. After shows in Italy, Germany and Turkey, now for the first time his work can be seen in North America. For this exhibit *"THE VILLAGE"* (July 1 – 20) *Chancery Art Gallery* has selected a cluster of oils with touch of irony over a simple joy of love and existence.

**TO CLARIFY: not from American state of Georgia, and not from the shores of Canadian Georgian Bay... It is from European country Georgia that rests on the shores of Mediterranean neighboring Black Sea, where the Argonauts from Greek mythology, in the years before the Trojan War, had voyaged for the Golden Fleece... It is a tiny country of snow-capped mountains, fertile plains, verdant valleys and staggering abundance, with unique geography of alpine, desert and subtropical zone. Ancient culture of Georgia, with one of the Earth's original alphabets, is dating back to at least the 7th century BC.**

*"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](http://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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