

PRESS RELEASE

July 15, 2008

For the first time in Muskoka –
solo exhibition of Toronto based visual artist
Andrea MAGUIRE:

ANCIENT JOURNEYS

July 23 – August 10.

Opening reception with the artist on

Thursday, July 24, from 5 to 7 pm

at *Chancery Art Gallery* in downtown Bracebridge.

"METAPHORIC PSYCHIC STRATA WHICH HIGHLIGHTS THE HUMAN CONDITION..."

Andrea MAGUIRE is a professional artist with MFA from *Norwich University (USA)*. She has shown extensively in both Canada and Internationally, including exhibitions in the USA, Ireland and Japan.

"I am interested in 'process' in my work. It is in the application of various layers and the subsequent practice of scraping away that I come to the realization of my vision which is one in which I 'find' the elemental image. These layers provide the metaphoric archaeological or psychic strata which highlight the human condition at its most essential level, its essence."

Andrea works from her private studio in Toronto, where she also offers professional workshops for artists on *"Mylar-Explorations of Surface," Mixed Media with Attitude," "Becoming Inspired,"* and *"The Expressive Gesture."*

Her art is in private and corporate collections, including *Ernst & Young, Dieckmann & Assoc. (Chicago), Magna International, Nesbitt-Burns* and *Ontario Hydro*.

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In some of Andrea's canvases, one can probably detect a sway of Mark Rothko; On the subject matter, her leaning to the past, mythology and psychic archetypes perhaps reveal her sympathy to Carl Jung. Such a combination seems to generate rather interesting effect inviting to the intriguing "meditative" experience. Not surprisingly though, considering that meditation, dream, myth and art are deemed to have the same roots in the human psychological constitution.



*"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
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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Dr. Lena Kolobow
owner & director

Dr. Paul Ivanoff
curator

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