

PRESS RELEASE

August, 2011

Chancery Art Gallery
downtown Bracebridge, ON
(Muskoka)

CONNECTEDNESS

SOLO EXHIBITION
John KOKKINOS

AUGUST 17 – SEPTEMBER 3

Opening Reception:
Thursday, August 18, 6-8 PM

Word "Connectedness" is used in reference to the technological changes as they affect the human psychic – major theme of John Kokkinos' application of his complex multilayer painting technique.

Born in Athens, Greece, he graduated from the *Special Art Program of Central Technical School* in Toronto (1975). Since then, John Kokkinos experimented with sculpture and painted using various media, though his style remained very recognizable. As a seasoned artist, John Kokkinos has exhibited in Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Vancouver, New York, etc. His paintings are in the *Canada Council Art Bank*, art rental collection of the *Art Gallery of Ontario* and private collections.

"...My recent paintings reflect on the complexity of social and political issues. Human self-interest, needs, customs, traditions, and moral values are changing at an ever-increasing rate. This has brought stresses and pressures, at a cost to the psychological health and freedom of each individual. These changes as complex as they may be, are shaping our culture and each individual, in our changing environmental and technological world.

The painting is approached with many complex layers of paint to build texture, depth, and a subject, as it transcends through time. The many layers and images correlate to the environmental, technological, and social changes."

GALLERY HOURS:

WED 12 PM – 5 PM
TUE 12 PM – 8 PM
FRI 12 PM – 5 PM
SAT 10 AM – 2 PM



At the announcement postcard (above, available in the gallery)
© 2008 by John Kokkinos. *The Studio* (fragment). Acrylic on canvas, 57"x 48"

*"The only possible teacher
except torture is fine art"*
Bernard Shaw
The Doctor's Dilemma

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 one thing which may
in some degree reconcile the
cultured person with life –
scientific and artistic enjoyment..."*
Eduard von Hartmann
Philosophy of the Unconscious

Chancery Art Gallery is a commercial gallery which offers solo and group exhibitions of contemporary fine art and acts as the artist's agent with exclusivity limited to Muskoka district of Ontario, Canada.

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 gallery's mission:
*"Piece of pie to the artists,
Peace of mind to the rest of us"*

Dr. Lena Kolobow
owner & director

Dr. Paul Ivanoff
curator

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