

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Chancery Art Gallery


in downtown Bracebridge, ON  
(Muskoka)

2012 July 25 – August 11

# OPEN YOUR EYES


duet exhibition, where  
**"Magical Realism"** meets  
**"Intellectual Mysticism"**

Two prominent, award winning  
European artists are presented:

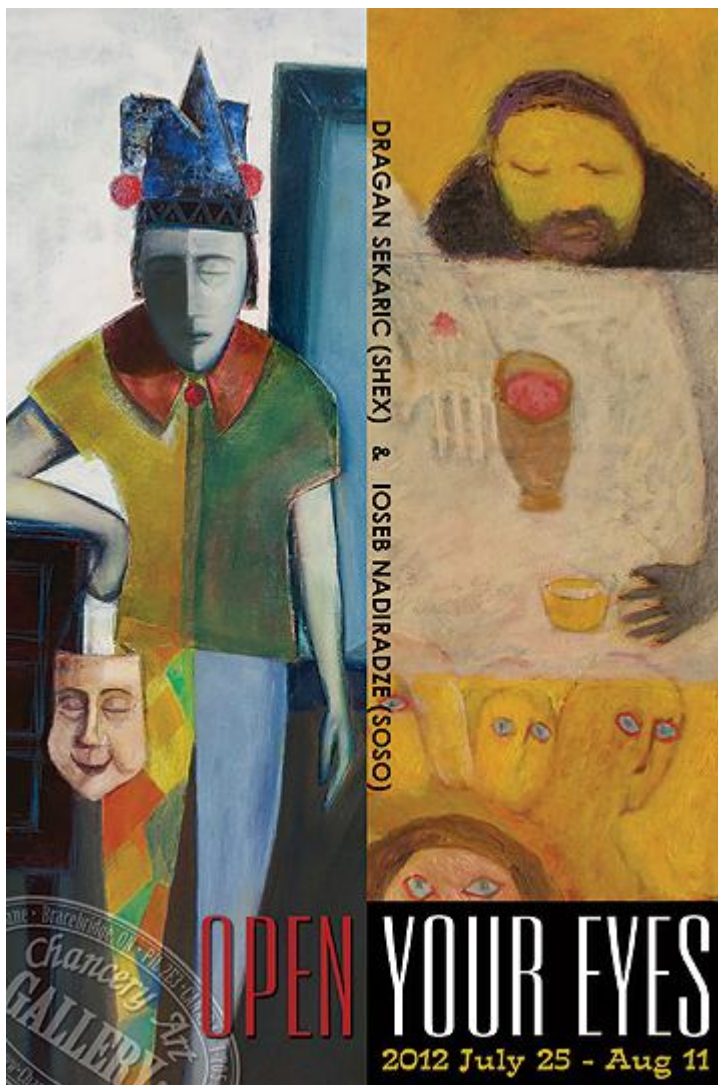
- **Dragan Sekaric (SHEX)**   
(b. Bosnia, former Yugoslavia)  
**"Magical Realism"**

The term *"Magical Realism"* in literature, is foremost associated with Latin American writers, like Marquez and Cortazar. Not without a good reason, Canadian journalist Ralph Benmergui once applied this term to describe the paintings by Dragan Sekaric (Shex)...

Some critics also believe that Shex's *"... most original contribution to fine art is his modern use of the sfumato style... [that] endows his paintings with a mystical, enigmatic character, and it portrays human figures as part of a larger world that denies them the defined worlds they once enjoyed and that gave them identity and importance"* (Prof. Keith Ellis).

- **Ioseb Nadiradze (SOSO)**   
(b. Georgia, former USSR)  
**"Intellectual Mysticism"**

Although some critics note that works of Soso are somewhat reminiscent of Mark Chagall, Soso feels that his own artistic roots derived mainly from the *frescos* of the ancient Georgian churches; 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 *Pirosmani* (1862-1918) who has enabled him to apprehend that reality is actually not as apparent as it seems to appear...



At the announcement postcard (above, available in the gallery)  
© Dragan Sekaric (Shex). *Harlequin* (fragment). Oil on canvas, 48" x 36"  
© Ioseb Nadiradze (Soso). *The Last Supper* (fragment). Oil on canvas, 32" x 40"

*"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](http://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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