

“NAKED BODIES, NAKED SOULS”

Loft Gallery, Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, August 13th – September 4th, 2010

Opening Reception, Friday, August 13th, 7 to 9 pm

Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, P O Box 170, 37 Main St., Narrowsburg, New York 12764
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Stunningly direct and indiscreet expression of erotic art, battle or unity of the sexes. Not at all. If someone is looking for a scandal or cheap sensation at the Loft Gallery this Summer will be very disappointed. “Naked Bodies, Naked Souls” is not about eroticism, it is about the beauty of the body and the soul. Beauty in the most natural manner and in harmony with the ancient traditions, with the cannons of the Fine Arts. It is more about “nakedness” of the soul than a body. It is about human emotions – loves, sorrows, desires and quests, happiness and despair. Sometimes it’s realistic, sometimes symbolist, sometimes even surreal, often inexpressible, as inexpressible human feeling could be. “Naked Bodies, Naked Souls” is dedicated to all those artists for whom cultivation and admiration of the traditions and values of Fine Arts are not empty words but a part of their daily artistic life. Hopefully this exhibit will promote contemporary, symbolist, expressionist, representational art. Art, which represents the best quality of form and great aesthetical subtlety. International array of artists is showing original paintings, sculptures, photographs, and limited edition hand-pulled prints for the first time to the audience of Delaware Valley in the beautiful Loft Gallery of the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, 137 Main St., Narrowsburg, NY.

It was very tempting to me to confront modern artists I admired for their talent, their vision, and their craftsmanship, with the subject of nakedness of body and soul. I was a little tired with the frivolous actions tampering with “nakedness” we are offered nowadays, by the various unfortunate examples of "art" which mingles the sacred and the profane. I rather wanted to see some modern artists, who are striving to "reinvent" the SYMBOLS, and try to bring them to life in our reality. And not only our daily reality, but most importantly, I wanted them to go beyond, and re-invoke the spiritual reality, which we are, I hope, still capable of experiencing. Did they succeed? The answer will belong to the audience.

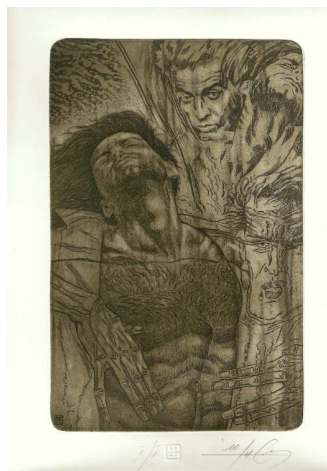
Classical composition, perfect harmony is employed in an unique cyanotype print “My Spirit Tried to Leave Me” by New York-based photographer, John Dugdale. This spiritual meditation of the subject of death, being overwhelmingly present in our life, is one of the themes that gave the artist the opportunity to depict his own very personal emotions. “Circle of Torment” by Miami-based photographer, David Vance, remind us of Medieval “danse macabres” but at the same time it serves as a symbol of humankind’s suffering. Younger generation of artists represent Polish photographer, Damian Wojtowicz with his gelatin silver print “A’ Damn”, double self-portrait, a perfect example of duality of naked body and naked soul. Group of international painters is represented by American, Canadian, Polish, and French artists. Daniel Barkley from Montreal presents a large scale acrylic study to the St. Sebastian. Great visionary French painter, Michel Henricot, student and friend of Leonor Fini, is represented by three sublime sensual male nude studies. Polish artist, Joanna Chrobak from Cracow, shows her work deeply rooted in the tradition of Old Masters, especially German and Flemish painters of the XV/XVI Century. New York-based painter, Darek Nowakowski offers his “very personal” painting “Dona Nobis Pacem” (Grant us a Peace). New Jersey-based painter, Aleksandra Nowak is a master of psychological portrait. She rarely paints naked bodies, but often naked souls. Her New York’s dealer said once that “she appears to be channeling a less-tortured Egon Schiele in her bittersweet canvases.” No surprise she was a finalist of the “American Artist’s Magazine” competition for the best portrait. Trained in the classical tradition, student of Leonard Baskin, painter and graphic artist, Michael Kuch from Massachusetts, shows human experiences from the inside out; his real realm is a world of psychological reflection, nakedness of the soul. Work of one of the best Polish contemporary sculptors, Barbara Falender, is represented by two bronze sculptures - “Ganymede” and “Transitoriness”. It is devoted to the beauty of the human body, full of natural sensuality and conveying the joy of living rather than suffering. Similarly with the white marble/porcelain piece by sculptor, Tom Misztal from Portland, Oregon. Piotr Woroniec, from a little town Brzozow in the Southern Poland, creates a theater of one actor in his sculptures – a monodrama enclosed in a single figure. A theater-sensitive viewer may compose his own dramas based on a polychrome wood-carved sculpture of his eyeless “Narcissus”. Oscar Wilde’s version of the Ovid’s myth would help in that matter. Emotions and movement could not be expressed more fully and masterly than in the work of the creator of the “In tune with Nature” and “Emotionalism” movements in American contemporary sculpture, Prof. Lubomir Tomaszewski. Contemporary graphic art is represented by Prof. Krzysztof Skorczewski from Cracow (“Ultima Thule” hand-pulled copper-plate engraving), Egidijus Rudinskas, member of Lithuanian Society of Artists from Kaunas (“Sleep I” etching – showing artist’s state of mind under the Soviet occupation at the time), and Luigi Casalino from Novara, Italy.

Realm of “Naked Bodies, Naked Souls” is a very private, personal world. World of the extreme lyricism and spirituality. The realm of artists’ secrets, dreams, feelings, and deepest emotions. They achieved in their works something that is given to those few chosen artists. They expressed the unexpressed – they found the way to show spiritual and mystical states of soul in the dream-like, symbolic images.

Daniel BARKLEY, Canadian



Luigi CASALINO, Italian



Joanna CHROBAK, Polish



John DUGDALE, American



Barbara FALENDER, Polish



Michel HENRICOT, French



Michael KUCH, American



Tom MISZTAL, American



Aleksandra NOWAK, American



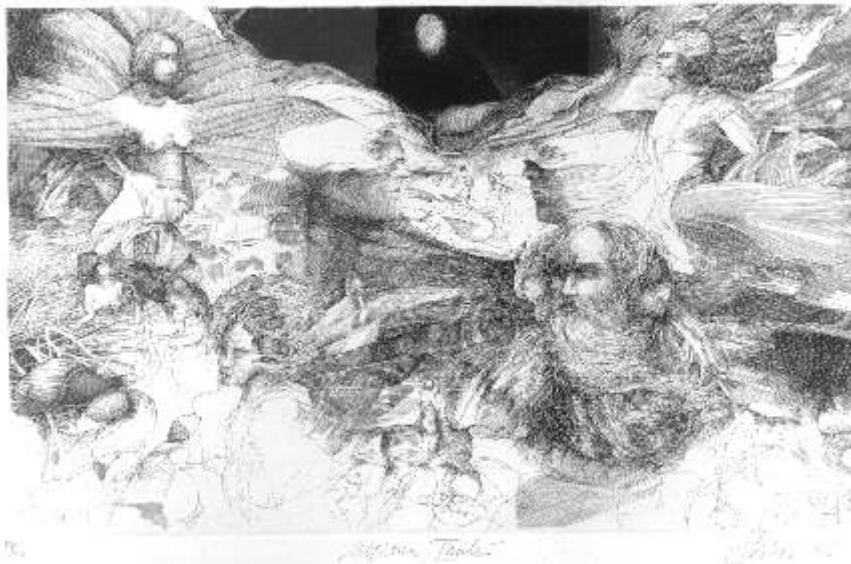
Darek NOWAKOWSKI, American



Egidijus RUDINSKAS, Lithuanian



Krzysztof SKORCZEWSKI, Polish



Lubomir TOMASZEWSKI, American



David VANCE, American



Damian WOJTOWICZ, Polish



Piotr WORONIEC, Polish



“... it is not enough to exist simply, non-reflectively, passively, negatively, it is necessary to manifest one’s existence more clearly, against the background of possible death and surrounding nothingness...” Witkacy

Guest Curator: Jan K. Kapera, JKK Fine Arts - Gallery of Modern Symbolism
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