

JKK FINE ARTS
Gallery of Modern Symbolism
proudly presents

LA DANSE MACABRE

Exhibition of new works by established international painters,
sculptors, and graphic artists

October - November 2007



Aleksandra Nowak, Medusa, oil on canvas, 30" x 40"

Dance of Death – Totentanz – La Danza Macabra

It is a medieval allegory on the universality of death. No matter one's station in life, the dance of death unite all. It consists of personified death leading a row of dancing figures from all walks of life to the grave, usually with emperor, king, pope, monk, beggar, and child. It reminds people of how fragile their lives are and how vain the glories of earthly life are. The epidemics (such as the Black Death) so frequent and so destructive in the Middle Ages, brought before popular imagination the subject of death and its universal sway. The purpose was to teach the truth that all men must die and should therefore prepare themselves to appear before their Judge. The earliest examples are found in Spain ("La Danza General de la Muerte", 1360), France (cemetery of the Church of the Holy Innocents, Paris, 1424), Germany (Bernt Notke, Lubeck), in England (John Lydgate's "Dance of Death", XV century), in Italy ("Triumph of Death" in the cemetery in Pisa, circa 1350), and in Poland, Austria, and Switzerland (Konrad Witz, Basel). In many representations underneath the several couples are found a rhymed dialogue between Death and his victims. With the development of engraving the dance of death became very popular subject with many artists. The most famous version of "Dance of Death" is that of Hans Holbein the younger, a series of 42 woodcuts based on his drawings, issued for the first time in 1538.



Luigi Casalino, Metamorphoses, 2001, hand-colored etching



Luigi Casalino Death of the Death, 2006, etching



Michel Henricot, Etude pour "La Fausse Suivante", 2007, oil, acrylic on papier toile, 11" x 16"



David Vance, Circle of Torment, limited ed. print



Michael Kuch, Fortuna, hand-colored etching



Michael Kuch, Sundial, hand-colored etching



Michael Kuch, Host, hand-colored etching



Michael Kuch, Biological Clock, hand-colored etching



Michael Kuch, Frog Dance, etching



Chawky Frenn, Forever, oil on panel, 2007



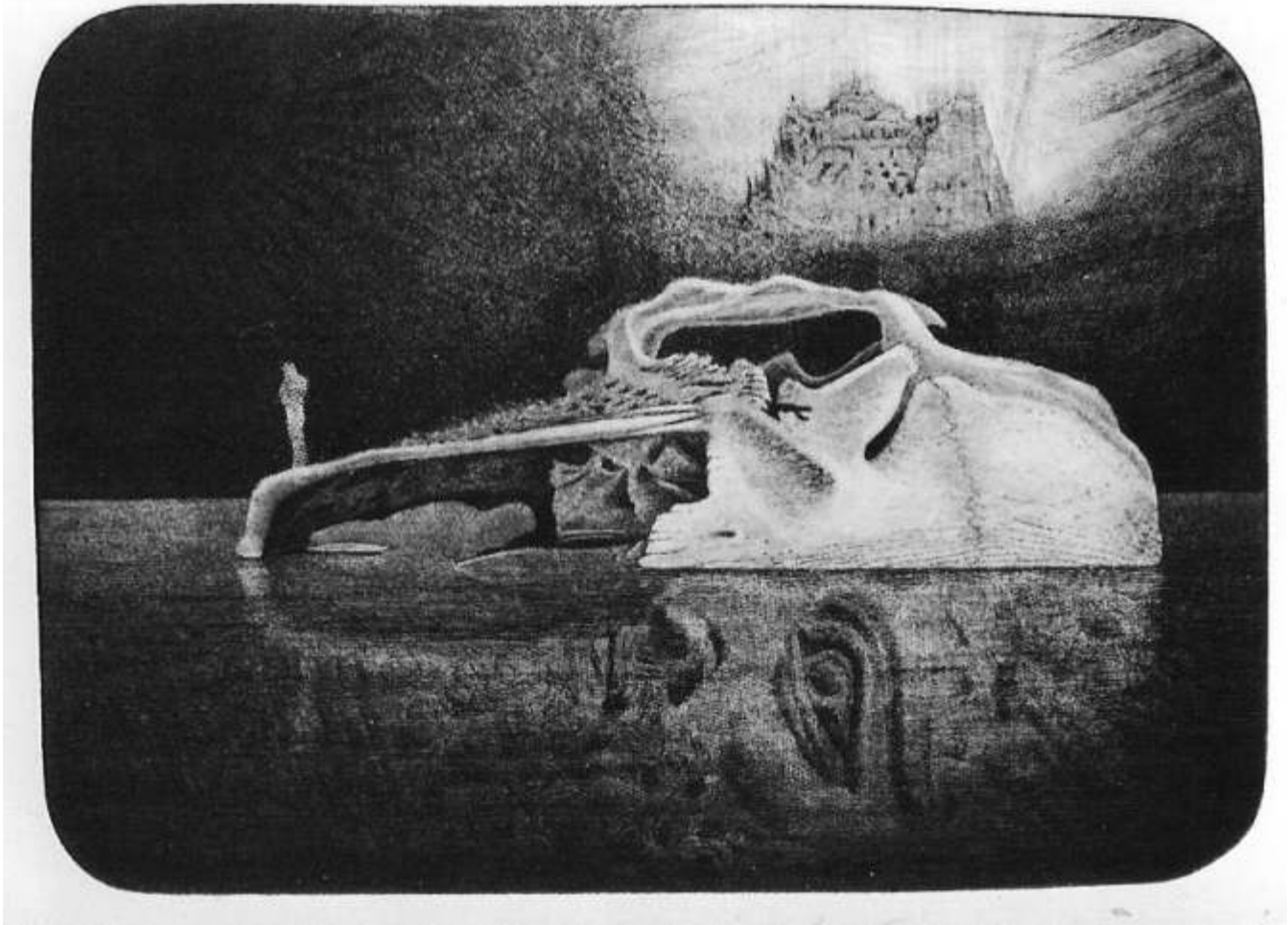
Jan Lebenstein, Radiographic Portrait, litho, 1973



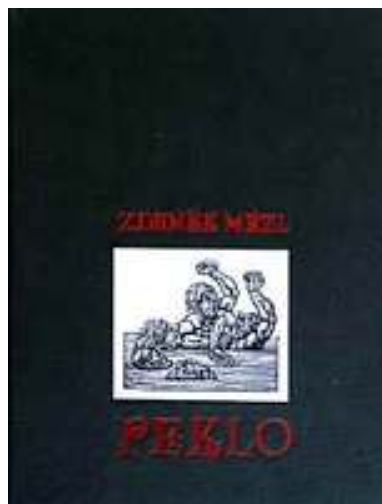
Jan Lebenstein, Two-headed Beast, gouache on paper, 1966



Jan Lebenstein, Radiographic Portrait, litho, 1973



Luigi Casalino, WAR, etching, 2003, limited ed. of 20



Zdenek Mezl, Dante's Inferno /Peklo/, artist's book, ed. 19/100



Michel Henricot, Etude, 2005, oil on panel, 16'' x 20''



Zdzislaw Beksinski, Untitled, 1987, oil on masonite