

From the Director:

As usual this time of year, I find it helpful to assess the Gallery's progress by reviewing the past year and setting goals for the next. As a feature booth ("Directors Invitational") at last December's Los Angeles Art Fair we experienced a significant increase of international recognition and acceptance. Art Fairs are an important arena for art galleries to extend their network of collectors, dealers, curators, and other arts professionals.

The '89 invitation was not received in time to be in the catalogue so it was doubly important for us to have the most striking booth possible. We accomplished this with a solo presentation of **Attila Richard Lukacs'** huge works *Junge Spartaner Fordern Knaben zum Kampf Heraus* and *1-800-MIKE*, both of which had been published widely (*Art in America*, *Flash Art*, *Contemporanea*). In spite of the fact that these works were borrowed from their owners, and were therefore unable to be sold, the recognition factor paid off handsomely and we made numerous new friends, many of whom visited Vancouver during the summer or came for Attila's September exhibition.

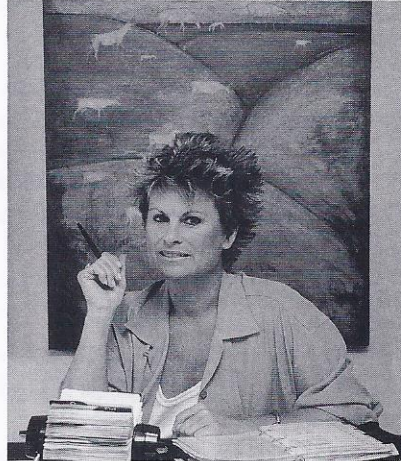
Following short stops in London and Paris visiting exhibitions, I spent a week in Berlin with Attila. He was heavy into painting for his September exhibit with us in Vancouver, October at *A.C.A.* in Calgary, November in Cologne at *Galerie Dietmar Werle*, and the *L.A. Art Fair* in December. It was fascinat-

ing to be in Berlin as the Wall was coming down, after experiencing its solidity in past visits. We attended the Rainer Fetting opening and the Rauschenburg R.O.C.I exhibition, as well as the Opera and Ballet in East Berlin. We went through Checkpoint Charlie on election day to be present for that historical moment. Expecting jubilation, we found instead that there was a very eerie sense of fragile freedom.

May always takes me to New York and then to the *Chicago Art Fair*. Because of Vancouver's geographic location in the art world, I find it vital to make these treks to look at the art, network with other dealers and soak in what's happening in the major centres.

Our Gallery traditionally hits its busiest time from late May to late September and this year was no exception. Visitors from around the world seem to have discovered Vancouver as the beautiful and hospitable city that it is.

We are pleased to be representing a new artist in Canada, **Gu Xiong**. Gu Xiong was a leading participant in the *China/Avant Garde* art show that took place at the *China Fine Arts Gallery* in Beijing in February, '89. His performance/installation was a highlight of that show. Four months later he took part in nationwide demonstrations that culminated in Tiananmen Square. He was forced to flee without his wife and daughter who have just recently joined him in Canada. He chose Canada as his new home because in '86 he had been artist-in-residence at the Banff Centre for the Arts and made many Canadian friends. Having exhibited in



Diane Farris (with Judith Currelly's "Caribou")
photo: M. Sturdy

Japan, China, France, Canada, West Germany, and Yugoslavia, he will have a work in our January exhibition "*The Big Picture*" and a solo exhibition next Fall.

In association with Toronto's *Olga Korper Gallery* we will be representing **Roland Brener** in Vancouver. Roland represented Canada in the Biennels of San Paulo in '89 and Venice in '88. We look forward to his September '91 exhibition and a long association.

We again anticipate successful results from this year's *L.A. Art Fair*. We have doubled the size of our booth so that we might present, as well as Attila's new work, works by five others in our Gallery: **Lionel Doucette**, **Graham Gillmore**, **Angela Grossmann**, **Derek Root**, and **Neil Wedman**. The staff for our booth this year will be **Patrick Montgomery**, our former Gallery Manager; **Carol Denny**, our Associate Director; and two of my friends, artists **Mary Schepisi** of New York and **Wanda Baucus** of Montana. Our booth for this year has been designed by **Alan Hart** of *Baker McGarva Hart*, the architects of our Vancouver Gallery.

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the Western Diversification Fund, the Canadian Department of External Affairs and Baker McGarva Hart, Architects.

I hope to see many of you in our Gallery next year.

Diane Farris



Diane Farris Gallery exterior

Derek Root

After a promising debut in Vancouver's *Young Romantics* exhibition in 1984, **Root** relocated to New York, where he currently lives and works. His latest solo show at the Gallery featured large-scale paintings depicting personal, interior architectural spaces and poignant portraits. In the past year he has further explored portraiture. His medium is no longer oil on canvas, but rather a variety of chemicals to create different textures and surfaces. The portraits emerge hazily out of overworked masonite boards. Calling on historical and personal references for these works, Root achieves a haunting, photographic effect which draws the viewer into the internalized world of the artist.

Angela Grossmann

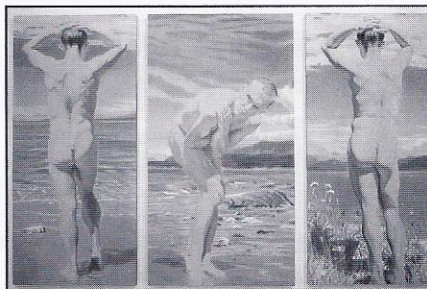
After several years of living and working in Europe, **Grossmann** has recently moved to Montreal where she is attending the Masters Program in fine Arts at Concordia University. Grossmann has always been fascinated with the past and her choice of found materials, such as suitcases, reflects this obsession. Her most recent works have been painted on discarded metal sheets, backed by plywood and fastened with industrial bolts. Continuing this theme are her painted photographs: old photos that have been found or purchased at European flea markets are reworked with delicate lucid washes to create evocative images which speak directly to each viewer. Several of these works have been re-photographed and enlarged to create a more emphatic result. These pieces will be featured at this year's L.A. Art Fair and in our Gallery next spring.

Neil Wedman

Neil is primarily known for his large-scale charcoal and pastel drawings. His solo show, *Margery*, was featured at the Gallery last spring. These works are meticulously executed, with a precise attention to detail. The subjects draw on art historical and mythological references, but the end result is a mysterious and fantastic contemporary creation directly from the artist's mind. Most recently, he has produced a series of lithographs which share an attention to detail with his larger works, yet are far more delicate in their composition and execution. Like the older drawings, these pieces engulf the viewer with their seductive style and fantastic imagery.

Laurie Papou

Laurie maintains that there is an apparent balance of masculine and feminine patterns and rhythms that occur in nature which parallel the human body and psyche. She accents the lushness of her figures -- on beaches and in forests -- by using oil paints thinned with turpentine and linseed oil, and by allowing the wood grain of the panels she paints on to show through. Laurie's new work will be shown at the Gallery in May.



Laurie Papou, Detail from "Three Stages"

The Diane Farris Gallery has built its reputation by supporting artists who have arrived at a point of development in their early careers where their work will benefit from the demands and challenges that come with increased exposure and committed representation. The Gallery opened in late 1984 with an intent to exhibit young Canadian artists and to promote them nationally and internationally. To this end the artists have been exhibited in the international Art Fairs of Cologne and Los Angeles and in public institutions and galleries in Europe, Asia and throughout North America.

Graham Gillmore

Gillmore first gained recognition as one of Vancouver's *Young Romantics*. His artistic style has since developed to gain him an international audience. His most recent solo show was held earlier this year at the Gallery and consisted of several mixed-media works. The subjects derived from a taxidermy text, with imagery such as animal parts and human anatomical sections. His nervous and delicate drawing style -- which often resembles an etched line -- has the overall effect of fluid motion. Gillmore's most recent series of works are large-scale paintings on paper which combine the taxidermic motif with a new theme of mass-media culture and semiotics. Key words and phrases are painted or applied to the surface and juxtaposed with the fluid lines of the earlier works. Through these works, one can trace the evolution of Gillmore's style, and his transition from a personal theme to a more pertinent, sociopolitical idea. Graham is now represented in New York at *Bess Cutler Gallery* who will exhibit his work in '91. *Bess Cutler* exhibits and promotes emerging talent in her SoHo and newly opened Santa Monica galleries.

Gloria Massé

Gloria Massé intrigues her viewers with her light and lyrical brushstroke, as well as with her unusual images. Her exhibition at the Gallery last year included *Night Howl to a Stump*, a painting depicting a small boy in Victorian costume singing a lonely song in the forest, as well as *Amazon Babies in Human Hands*, showing strange birds cradled on careful hands. She was awarded a BC Cultural Services Individual Artists Grant and is now living and working on Gambier Island in Howe Sound. Her recent series of wolves were exhibited at *Artropolis '90* this Fall, and new works will be shown as part of the Gallery's *Christmas Exhibition*.

Gu Xiong



Gu Xiong, "Enclosure"

Artists represented by Diane Farris Gallery

Mary Balomenos	Rowland Hill	Derek Root
David Bierk	John Koerner	Jeffrey Spalding
Judith Currelly	Paul Kuhn	Mary Frances Tuck
Lionel Doucette	Attila Richard Lukacs	Deon Venter
Monique Fouquet	Gloria Massé	Kathy Venter
Graham Gillmore	Frank Mayrs	David Walker
Angela Grossman	Laurie Papou	Neil Wedman
Wendy Hamlin	Philippe Raphanel	Gu Xiong

Adrian Clarkson Presents, CBC's one hour weekly television magazine which examines and celebrates artists of all kinds, will air a segment on Attila Richard Lukacs on January 10th at 8pm. Filmed in Berlin and Vancouver, this thirty minute profile has been produced and directed by Gemini award winner Alan Burke.