

Vera Malitskaya opens door to her soul

Allan's Artists



Allan O'Marra

Making art for Vera Malitskaya is not about following fashions or trends, but about reflecting spiritual conversations with herself and with friends -- even with the unseen.

Dreams, visions, deep self-examination and conversational exchanges with like-minded souls are the fodder for her acrylic-on-canvas paintings.

The titles of her works -- Never Lose Hope, Passion, Redemption, Emerging, Mysterious, Unbound -- provide a window to the meaning she derives and reflects to her world in conceiving and creating them.

Born of Russian lineage into a family of professional architects in Uzbekistan, Malitskaya studied painting, drawing and composition at art college in Tashkent. After a brief stint at freelance graphic design, she continued her studies at the National Institute of Art and Design.

Following a period of continued art experimentation -- and, ultimately, feeling frustrated by the conservative restrictions on painting subjects and artistic expression in her native land -- Malitskaya decided to broaden her art horizons by coming to Canada, to Ajax as a live-in caregiver in 2012.

Once her committed work period here was finished, Malitskaya applied for and received permanent resident status and began to work at freelance graphic design and making fine art in earnest. She is in the process of fashioning a circle of artists, friends, resources and display opportunities in efforts to support her burning drive to express her deepest feelings and learnings to a wider audience.

Her first exhibition experience was in early 2013 at the Gladstone Hotel in Toronto in a group show called Mixed Art and Music. She followed that up with participation in the Colour of Life group show at Cultural Expressions Art Gallery in Ajax in November of last year. A small solo show at Stevenson Farm B and B followed early this year. And in April Malitskaya collaborated with photographer Stephen Milne to create a series of pho-



AJAX -- Ajacian Vera Malitskaya between two of her angel paintings.

Photo by Allan O'Marra

tography-based artworks for the Dark Room 4.0 exhibition in Toronto.

The diminutive, passionate and vivacious artist is highly excited about her potential to engage in making and showing art in her adopted land.

She plans to look for opportunities to paint and create outdoor and public installations, her ideal fantasy project being the creation of a mural in a Toronto subway station, an installation that would fulfil her wish to reach a wide audience who would never see her work in formal gallery circumstances.

Malitskaya's work can be seen on her web site at www.veramalitskaya.com.

Allan O'Marra is a professional artist living and working in Ajax. For contact information go to www.allanomarra.com.

Caribe returns to Ajax art gallery in conjunction with the Durham Caribbean Festival

AJAX -- Eleven artists are showing their work in Ajax starting with a reception.

Cultural Expressions Art Gallery is holding its second Caribbean art exhibition, Caribe: Art from the Caribbean Diaspora, from June 13 to 27.

The show is held in conjunction with the June 28 Durham Caribbean Festival at Ajax's Greenwood Conservation Area.

The participating artists, who have created work inspired by and celebrating Caribbean culture, are: Georgia Fullerton, Marie Blanchard Thomas, Richard Jules, Cheryl Rock and Robert Small of Ajax, Alpheus Jones, Judith Matthews, Jacqueline Ward and Joanne de Boehmler of Pickering, Aisha Chiguichon of Oshawa and Sheryl Keen of Toronto.

The opening reception is June 13 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the gallery, 62 Old Kingston Rd., and there will be music and a special appearance by the Carnival queens. Participating artists will be on hand and visitors can ask them about their work.

For more information, contact the gallery at 905-427-2412 or culturalexpressions@sympatico.ca.