



P~R~E~S~S

R~E~L~E~A~S~E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-April 1997

ARTFOCUS FIRST SPRING
ARTISTS ' SHOW
IS "MINI" TORONTO ARTFAIR



Tree of Toronto #2, a corten steel sculpture

by Spanish/ American artist **Angel Orensanz** & *Listening Head*, a painted steel sculpture by Torontonian **Scott Childs**, joined *The Meeting Place*, by **Ritchie Sinclair**, a fluorescent mural depicting the multicultural ethnicity of Canada, as feature exhibits of the **ARTFOCUS 1ST SPRING ARTISTS' SHOW** in Callatrava's *The Galleria* at BCE Place in Toronto from April 1-4, 1997.

The aboriginal-inspired mural by *Star Dreamer* (aka **Ritchie Sinclair**), consisting of 28 linked canvas panels, was created as the centre piece of the *1st Toronto International Pow Wow* at the Skydome in Toronto in 1994. Ritchie occupies a unique place in the Canadian pantheon of artists as the Scottish - lineage protege of Ojibway shamanistic artist Norval Morrisseau. The mural depicts the native legends of the formation of North America , contrasted with Toronto's contemporary architecture, like the CN Tower." It is 20th century Canada's version of the native totem pole," says Ritchie. It includes a cameo contribution by fellow Morrisseau protege, native artist Brian Marion and remained on view at BCE Place to mid-April.



The exhibitors, drawn largely from the Internet across Canada, included visual artists: **Sharon Amir, Serge Deher, Lon Duva, Alan Gaensbauer, &**

Deborah Gilbert (Toronto), **Merike Lugus** (Cobourg), **David Noseworthy** (South Lancaster), **Darlene Tinchler**, (Regina, Saskatchewan), **Stephen Yau** (Richmond Hill), **Mirjana** (Yorkville Co-Op), **Nelson Surette** (Acadian from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia), **Annette Blady & Al Van Mill** (Thornhill).

Representing the alternate art scene in Toronto was a group show of 40 artists from the newly-formed Spadina co-op gallery, **Propeller**. This was sponsored by Toronto lawyer, *George E. Eyre*.

Also on view was a selection of recent works by Toronto artists from **The Art Collection of Upper Canada Brewery**. Upper Canada also hosted the ARTFOCUS Opening Party for exhibitors & their friends at the Brewery on the evening of April 1.

The opening ceremonies & awards were covered by *CBC Late Night TV* on April 1st. The show was enlivened daily with live classical jazz piano performances by **Alan Gaensbauer** and vocals by **Brian Roman**.

Jurors for the awards offered by art suppliers and ARTFOCUS magazine were Gallery Directors **Jennifer Leskiw**, *Gallery 7* (Yorkville) and **Jamie Angell**, *The Angell Gallery* (Queen Street West). Awards were selected as follows: *Best in Show*, (a portfolio from ARTFOCUS magazine) for her Dada shoes made of hair clippings, **Mary Anne Benusis** (Propeller); *Best in Oils* (Edvard Munch Aqua Oils from Harstrup Associates Ltd.), **Gideon Tomaschoff** (Propeller); *Best in Acrylics*, (Demco Water Soluble Oils courtesy Grand & Toy, Yonge & Bloor), **Susan Stewart** (Propeller); *Best in watercolour* (Karat Liquia water-soluble wax colours from Staedtler-Mars, Toronto) to **Stephen Yau**; *Best in Mixed Media* (water-colouring crayons from Staedtler-Mars) to **Lon Duva**; *Best in Sculpture* (a book from ARTFOCUS) to **Merike Lugus**.

For Further Information & Photos Contact:

Pat Fleisher @ ARTFOCUS MAGAZINE

Tel 416/925-556 Fax 416/925-2972

E-Mail < Info@artfocus.com >