

**Loop Gallery presents:
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Mark Adair

Elizabeth Babyn

Yael Brotman

Kelly Cade

Laura Ciruls

Gary Clement

Tanya Cunnington

Elizabeth D'Agostino

Chris Dow

Martha Eleen

Adrian Fish

Maria Gabankova

Candida Girling

Charles Hackbarth

Libby Hague

Linda Heffernan

Isabelle Hemard

David Holt

Sung Ja Kim

J.J. Lee

Richard Mongiat

Mary Catherine Newcomb

Liz Parkinson

Maureen Paxton

Barbara Rehus

Thelma Rosner

Rochelle Rubinstein

Lanny Shereck

Yvonne Singer

Adrienne Trent



Maria Gabankova *Puzzle*

March 7 – March 29, 2009

Reception: Saturday, March 7, 2009, 2-5 PM

*"Can the blind lead the blind?
Will they not both fall into the ditch?"
(Luke 6:39)*

Loop Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition by Loop Gallery member **Maria Gabankova** entitled *Puzzle*.

In a blind puzzle of leaders and followers, figures move, stumble and fall throughout a white blind space without purpose and grope for direction and hope.

In *Puzzle* Gabankova uses the above parable of the blind as a starting point for her drawings and paintings. She interprets the parable by referencing current social unrest caused by global economic and political uncertainty, corruption and confusion to bring to mind a contemporary adaptation of this Biblical illustration.

In context of the Old Testament texts "figuratively, blindness refers to an inability to recognize the truth..." In the New Testament: "...Jesus described the religious leaders and teachers of his own generation in terms of blindness. Although metaphorically blindness may describe mere ignorance, it usually carries the overtones of an unwillingness to face up to the truth." (Dictionary of Biblical imagery.)

Enticed by the disturbing imagery and mysterious meaning of a painting by Pieter Bruegel (1524-1569) titled *The Parable of the Blind*, Gabankova has "entered" the Bruegel image mindset by painting some of its parts and placing them into a visual dialogue with fragments of current events. She explores how these will resonate and morph.

Maria Gabankova, who was born in the former Czechoslovakia, currently lives and works in Toronto, Canada where she also teaches figure drawing, painting, and portraiture at the Ontario College of Art and Design. In addition to being a founding member of the Loop Gallery, Maria has also been invited to sit on juries, panel discussions, conferences, and work in film and theatre. She has worked as a professional artist and exhibited her drawings and paintings in Canada and internationally since 1980. Her work is represented in private and corporate collections in Canada, USA and Europe.

www.paintinggalleries.net

e-mail: gabankova@paintinggalleries.net

Loop Gallery 1174 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M6J 1J5 (one block east of Gladstone).

Gallery Hours: Wed - Sat 1 to 5 pm, and Sun 1 to 4pm. Artist is in attendance on Sundays.

For more information please contact the gallery director at 416-516-2581 or loopgallery@primus.ca.

www.loopgallery.ca