



Soka University of America

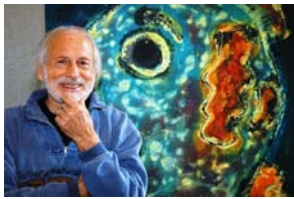
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For Immediate Release



Nicolai – His Expressionist World

Opening at Founders Hall Art Gallery
Soka University, Aliso Viejo
April 15 – August 26, 2005

Nicolai is back! Taking an absence of six years from the art world, he embarked on spiritual journeys to India and investigated the evolving art energies in Prague. During this time, he also built his new home and studio in El Cariso Village, which is nestled in the Cleveland National Forest on Ortega Highway.

Now Nicolai is returning with an exciting exhibition of 50 dynamic works opening at Soka University's Founders Hall Art Gallery on April 15th. An Opening Reception will be held that evening from 6:30 – 9:00 pm.



Between hammering and nailing, Nicolai produced 200 new paintings, an awesome collection of color and expressionism which have yet to be unveiled. *Nicolai – His Expressionist World* brings the first of these to the public's attention.

One does not pass by any of Nicolai's oil paintings with quick or indifferent nonchalance. Not afraid of mixing colors, his unique works are inspired portrayals of various subjects, which often show hints and traces of feeling and passions from previous years or even other lifetimes. (Note the medieval theme that springs forth from "The Well Diggers.")

"Picking Oranges"

"The Well Diggers"





Nicolai's use of depth, shading and balance is not totally traditional and the transcendent inspirations captured in vibrancy and color work to create an originality not found in any other contemporary expressionist artist.

Born in Pennsylvania of Russian parents, Nicolai dreamed of entering the field of medicine or architecture, but family finances propelled him into education. It was in Laguna Beach, where he taught English and wrote poetry, that he met and befriended the now world-famous artist Jon Serl, who urged Nicolai to start painting with serious intent. Finally in 1992, just before his friend's passing, Nicolai began to put his expressions on canvas.

“Varshini – Hindu Goddess of Rain”

Soka University's Founders Hall Art Gallery is very proud and pleased to welcome Nicolai back to the art world with this exhibition of 50 paintings, most of which have never been seen before



The community and all lovers of expressionist art are invited to meet Nicolai at his opening reception on April 15th. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP to 949.480.4081.

Founders Hall Art Gallery is located near the front entrance of Soka University, 1 University Drive, Aliso Viejo, Ca 92656. For a map and directions see www.soka.edu.

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High resolution photos available upon request.

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