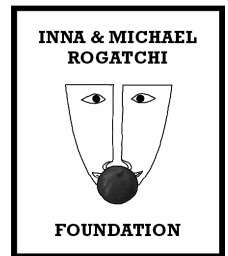


# BOLERO

by Michael Rogatchi



Monday 4 – Saturday 16 December 2006



'Bolero I', oil on canvas

An exhibition of metaphorical expressionist paintings by **Michael Rogatchi** opens at **The Gallery in Cork Street**, 28 Cork Street, Mayfair, London W1S 3NG on **Monday 4 December until Saturday 16 December 2006**. Some twenty oil paintings on canvas will be for sale, priced between £8,000 and £120,000, with a further five paintings being exhibited from private collections.

In 'Rosinante's Dream' and 'Poor Yorick!', Michael Rogatchi feels that when an individual remembers someone, the subject's life energy does not fade away, but is stored and remains alive within the thinker's memory. His painting of Yorick is sub-titled, 'In memory of Marcello Mastrojanni' and shows a symbolic tired old actor. The only bright spot, representing his youth, is the reflection of a yellow bell hanging from his jester's hat in a mirror. The day Rogatchi completed the painting, Mastrojanni, who had been one of Rogatchi's most beloved actors and personalities, died.

Rosinante is also aged in his portrait. This old horse sees himself in his dream in exactly the same manner as many people do – as he would wish to be remembered. When Michael Rogatchi works

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on paintings which explore memory, he does not emphasise the bitterness of lost time, but the light left in us by this time: not the hopelessness inspired by memory, but its mercy.

'The Days and Nights of Pygmalion' reinterprets the story of Pygmalion and Galatea. Michael Rogatchi believes that the story of Pygmalion is ultimate proof that the essential factor determining the quality of human relationships are one's own feelings and not the object of those emotions. His painting depicts the subject drowning in the ocean of his love. He is experiencing a terrible restlessness of the soul. By night, he loses himself in his worship of Galatea, by day he imposes the harshest possible demands on his creation.

'Bolero' comprises three sets of 7 paintings (part I pictured above), forming a mosaic, rich in colour, which explores the different aspects of the 'corrida' (bullfight), encapsulating the essence of man's physical existence. Man's physical presence, as well as his mental universe, is constantly interacting with those external factors and challenges with which we are faced. In the 'corrida', this intermingling is expressed in its most concentrated and accomplished form, giving the series its title 'Bolero'. Michael Rogatchi explains, "The hidden logic of the struggle in a 'corrida' often provokes admiration. Every stage of the fight, every single movement has been shaped in a truly unique manner. Its impetuous but very precisely determined dance of movements makes the 'corrida' a constantly intriguing form of bolero."

Formerly an expert in neurochemistry in St Petersburg, Michael Rogatchi changed direction and pursued an artistic education, following which he worked as a professional set and costume designer for a number of leading theatres in the eighties winning several awards. Towards the end of the eighties, he was deputy director and chief set and costume designer at Narodny Dom (People's House Theatre). He also worked as a graphic designer creating a number of internationally acclaimed art posters for such stars as Maurice Bejart, Mstislav Rostropovich and Paul McCartney, all of whom were supporting Rogatchi's international charity 'Arts Against Cancer'. Rostropovich was Honorary Chairman of the charity. In 1996, he was the only foreign artist to make the final of the Nationwide Art Event, organised by the Ben Uri Art Society in London, being awarded a Special Diploma by its eminent judges like R.B. Kitaj and Sir Nicholas Serota. He was invited to exhibit at the Annual Picture Fair and Exhibition in London and was selected to enter the International Artist of the Year Award in 2004.

Michael Rogatchi and his writer wife Inna live in Finland, where they run the Rogatchi Foundation to promote and support educational, historical, spiritual and moral heritage. Michael Rogatchi has exhibited in numerous exhibitions around the world. He has an on-going world tour – Dream, Memory, Love, which culminates in 2008. He has made donations in each place, including to the Finnish Cancer Society, the Simon Wiesenthal Documentation Centre in Vienna, the Auschwitz Historical Heritage Centre in Poland, and the Pitigliani Cultural Centre in Rome. Michael Rogatchi's works can be found in museums, galleries, private collections, cultural and public institutions around the world including the United Kingdom, USA, France, Spain, Italy, Austria, Israel, Sweden, Finland, Poland, Czech Republic, Russia and the Ukraine.

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