

Logo GAO

**Bernard Gamoy/Sadko Hadzihasanovic**

***PORTRAITS IN EXILE***

March 31 to April 24, 2016

This exhibition, *Portraits in Exile*, is the initiative of Josette Goffin Oberson

Bernard Gamoy and Sadko Hadzihasanovic both express their ideas through figurative drawings and paintings. For many years, they have observed the impact of globalization on diverse minority groups, whether this is the result of monetary means or the standardization of thought. This is an issue that has become more and more pertinent.

For **Bernard Gamoy**, to be an artist in a society obsessed with money is a matter of utopia. Using photographs he has taken of himself as starting points, he then intuitively creates powerful, spirited characters to play the role of denouncing the injustices in a society where human beings are increasingly regarded as secondary.

His *non-self-portraits*, revealing caustic humour and a strong tendency for self-mockery, engage the viewer in a head-on, sensorial way. This very quickly prompts a thought-provoking reading and a reflection on the pitfalls that aggressive globalization entails for human beings.

A native of the former Yugoslavia, **Sadko Hadzihasanovic** is interested in the identity construction of a new generation of Balkan peoples. He concentrates, in particular, on certain minority groups living on the margins of conventional society. From photographs and sketches, taken during chance encounters with a group of Gypsies (*Young Romi*) or young hunters with nothing to do (*Hunter & Hunted*), living on the outskirts of large cities, he produces a portrait gallery, humorous and ironic impressions, which open a window onto a world closely linked to the tumultuous past of these young people, society's rejects. Sadko Hadzihasanovic's subtle pictorial approach requires the viewer to go beyond the first impressions of *Non Finito* (aesthetic of the unfinished). A more sustained reading of Sadko's portraits, from the first unfinished stratum to the second and so on, reveals the artist's profound sociologic thought and his complex art making.

The son of working-class parents, Bernard Gamoy grew up in Paris yet never had an art lesson or went to the Louvre. However, after coming to Canada in 1971, he began to study art and now holds a BFA and MFA from Concordia University. He lives and works in Montreal, and has received many grants and prizes from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ministère des Affaires culturelles du Québec, the Conseil des Arts et des lettres du Québec as well as from the Concordia University Part-Time Faculty Association (CUPFA). An active member of CUPFA, he has been teaching painting and drawing at Concordia University since 1988. His work has been presented in many solo and group exhibitions in Quebec, Canada and abroad, and can be seen in numerous Quebec and Canadian public art collections.

A native of the former Yugoslavia (Bihac), Sadko Hadzihasanovic has lived and worked in Toronto since 1993. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts of Sarajevo in Bosnia and holds a MFA from Belgrade University. He has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions both in Canada and abroad, particularly in Serbia. He has received several grants from the Canada Council for the Arts and the Toronto Arts Council, the latter having granted him support for his series *Hunter & Hunted*. His works are in the collections of various museums in Canada and abroad.

*Translated by Janet Logan*