

See the world from a new perspective at Port Credit gallery

Mississauga News

MISSISSAUGA — As you walk through the doors of Rumi Galleries in Port Credit, you're greeted by a quote from artist Gershon Iskowitz.

The quote reads: "My paintings are not abstract, they are real, they are very, very much real, I see most things — I paint what I see."

Gallery director Joseph Rumi in agrees with those sentiments.

"Gershon always said he painted what he saw and didn't paint abstract works," said Rumi, speaking to

The News

last night about the exhibit

Visionary Landscapes

, that features eight works by the artist. "He was a visionary in terms of looking at landscapes from a different perspective."

Iskowitz was born in Poland in 1921 and was still there during the outbreak of World War II. He and his brother were sent to the infamous Auschwitz concentration camp before he was sent to another camp where he was badly wounded trying to escape.

He survived and immigrated to Canada, first taking up residence in Toronto. He then moved on to Parry Sound where he discovered an intense love of painting the Canadian landscape.

A turning point came in 1967 when he hired a RCMP helicopter to fly him up on high from Winnipeg to Churchill. It was during that trip that he found a new perspective on landscapes, looking down from high above, and it fundamentally changed his artistic style forever.

At Rumi Galleries, several of the paintings show this style he discovered and are featured prominently.

"The helicopter ride completely changed his perspective," said Rumi. "It was then he first started to paint looking down and it completely changed the visual landscape of Canadian art.

"He was very daring and very bold for the time," Rumi said. "He wasn't afraid to put himself out there, which can be very difficult for many artists."

Take, for example, the oil on canvas piece Orange D from 1980. Looking at the bright and vibrant colours peeking out from behind white clouds, one has a feeling of weightlessness as if soaring high in the bright blue sky.

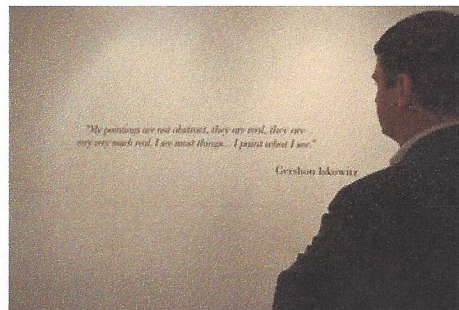
"I really love his use of colour; the works are very happy, vibrant paintings," said Rumi. "I find (his pieces) exciting because they're each so wonderfully vibrant and joyous. You can feel just how enthusiastic he was in each painting."

The gallery is exhibiting Iskowitz's works from his career in the early 1960s to mid-1980s. The artist died in 1988.

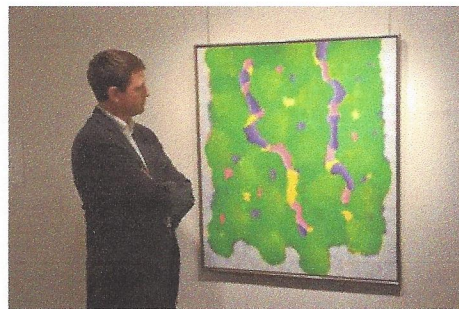
The exhibit, which continues until Feb. 22, officially opens on Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.



Joseph Rumi, director of Rumi Galleries in Port Credit, with an untitled watercolour painting by artist Gershon Iskowitz. The gallery is hosting an exhibition of Iskowitz's works until Feb. 22.



Joseph Rumi, director of Rumi Galleries in Port Credit, reads a quote from artist Gershon Iskowitz. The gallery is hosting an exhibition of Iskowitz's works until Feb. 22.



Joseph Rumi, director of Rumi Galleries in Port Credit, considers the oil on canvas piece Spring Green C by artist Gershon Iskowitz. The gallery is hosting an exhibition of Iskowitz's works until Feb. 22.