



left, Aurora In Red, oil on canvas, 24" x 48"

above, Past. Present. Future., oil on canvas, 80" x 72"

Fairy Tales Do Come True

written by Kathy Thomas

Standing in the presence of Anna Razumovskaya, there is a strong sense that she is living a charmed life. The beauty that Anna creates on canvas is a true reflection of the beauty that is Anna, both inside and out.

Born in the former Soviet Union, Anna grew up in a communist state, far removed from the life she lives today. "I would never know how my life would be now if I had stayed in Russia," she explains. A sigh of relief, blessing and wonder at the magic of the decision accompanies her words. "I have always been passionate about art, fashion – beautiful things. Deciding to leave Russia and live my dream in Canada opened my life to so many wonderful experiences."

Anna is a graduate of Russia State University of Fine Arts. Communist regime controlled the state of the Soviet Union during her young years, but art



Splendor Dance 2, oil on canvas, 24" x 30"



Splendor Dance 1, oil on canvas, 24" x 30"



above, Past. Present. Future. (sepia study), mixed media on canvas, 80" x 72"



right, Forgotten Town, oil on canvas, 36" x 48"

school gave Anna the freedom of expression, her love for sophistication, beauty and romance. After graduation, she studied art in Germany, Belgium and Holland. Finally Anna arrived in Canada, which she now happily declares "is home".

Her most magical event as a newcomer to Canada was the meeting of her future parents-in-law. Attending the same English-as-a-second-language school, Anna met her husband Eugene one day at the school with his parents. Anna will say they decided to marry in 2 weeks – Eugene

says it was three – but in any event, they agree that they married in about a month! Love at first sight has continued to blossom, as today Eugene is the business manager to Anna's creative skill. A true match made in heaven. Yes, occasionally fairy tales do come true!

The portrait masters of the late 19th Century, John Singer Sargent, Russian painter Valentin Serov, and earlier masters such as Peter Paul Rubens and Rembrandt initially influenced Anna's style. Today, she has developed a style so strong,



left, Parisian Nights, oil on canvas, 40" x 60"



above, Dance Power 2, oil on canvas, 24" x 30"



Longing 2, oil on canvas, 40" x 30"



Prelude, oil on canvas, 40" x 30"

distinct and recognizable that Anna is now the one influencing new artists.

It is said that the definition of luck is the meeting of opportunity and preparation. At "The Toronto One of A Kind Show" in November 2004, Anna and Eugene were standing in their booth thinking that this was absolutely the wrong place for them to be. Coming down the aisle towards their booth was Kathy Thomas, owner of The Bronze Frog Gallery in Oakville, Ontario thinking this was absolutely the wrong place for her to be.

As Kathy barrelled down the aisle, quickly taking in the exhibits, looking for a few extra treasures for her gallery's Christmas offerings, she was stopped in her tracks by Anna's painting of a ballerina. "The Swan Lake final bow pose, the emotion of the piece, the softness, the colour, the pure beauty, everything about it grabbed me," says Kathy. "I asked some questions, almost unbelieving that such exceptional work could be at this consumer

show. Finally I asked if they would come to my gallery and do a show." Another perfect match had just occurred!

In recent years, Anna's work has exploded in popularity on the world market. Her originals sell out almost before the paint is dry. Anna has a unique method of selling her gicleés, all printed and embellished in house at her studio. Each gicleé is available in several sizes and each piece counts as one number of the full edition size of 50. This way, her art can be enjoyed in several locations when size is a restriction. The embellishments are beautiful and the result is that her gicleés are works of art as well, albeit originating from a print.

Anna's studio is in a large, open commercial mall. High ceilings, accented by crystal chandeliers, the sound of classical Latin music, paintings past and present, all create the ambience that influences her artistic mood.

When Anna has a vision for her collection, she works with her models beginning with design of the setting, followed by shoots with hundreds of photos. And then the magic flows out onto the canvas. "Quickly, easily, brightly," she says of her technique. "This is the way I draw, the same way I live. My art is a reflection of my life, a reflection of myself..."

Everyday life includes being Mom to her twins – two fabulous young men, one who inherited his Mom's artistic talents and the other well on his way to his own business career. A rich cultural lifestyle with friends and family enhances the peace that dominates Anna's life. The adoration of Anna and Eugene for each other ensures that working together is an extension of a shared passion that is so obvious.

Many artists who have incredible talent are never "discovered". All that artistic talent dwarfs the talent for business acumen. For your

art to get into the homes of collectors and to become memorable, the business of connecting, marketing, promoting and managing shows, bookings, sales and on and on is every bit as important as creating the work. Several galleries will only work with artists who have agents or publishers and for very good reason. Anna and Eugene have this covered very well.

Eugene is a fabulous manager. He has total respect for Anna's time, energy and opinions. At the same time he protects her from taking on too much, having to make business decisions and handling the sales end of their business. Anna no longer does commissions, they are not a part of her portfolio. She commands total artistic license of what she produces. Yes, art is a business.

On a recent personal appearance tour of several of their galleries in the UK, Eugene tells of meeting a mob of collectors in one particular gallery. He laughs as he tells the story of how the small UK



Captured Memories 3, mixed media on canvas, 30" x 30"

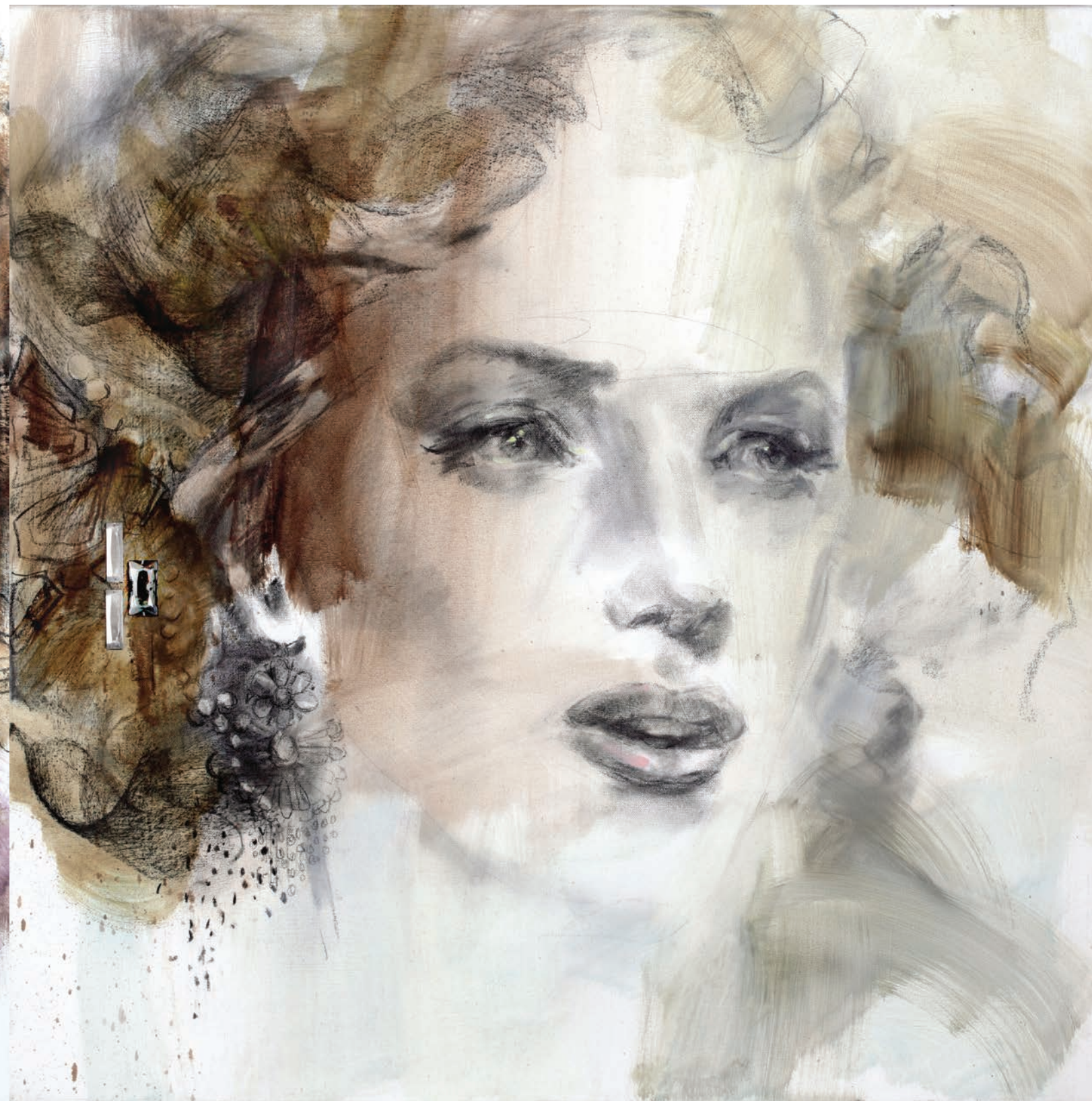


Image Concept 1, mixed media on canvas, 30" x 30"



left, Midday Shadows, mixed media on canvas, 36" x 36"
above, Aurora 1, mixed media on canvas, 24" x 48"

gallery was overwhelmed by over 300 fans waiting to have Anna sign her books and write some special commemoration for their collection. "We felt like rock stars!" says Eugene. "Anna loved meeting everyone."

Touring is wonderful but tiring and takes its toll on Anna's creative energy. Relaxing at home with feet up, a good bottle of wine and lovely music is her perfect rejuvenation method. Sharing it with her business partner and adoring husband all rolled into one person, well, what else can be said...all this magic evolves into the beautiful expression of her talent arriving on the canvas, to be treasured by growing multitudes of admirers around the globe.

Enjoy the paintings of Anna Razumovskaya at: The Bronze Frog Gallery, 162 Lakeshore Road East, Oakville, Ontario L6J 1H4, Telephone: 905.849.6338, www.bronzefroggallery.com.