

One thing which the artists do have in common is their work is all heavily conceptual. Finlay's latest work was inspired by the death of a neighbour and friend; the "Death Plane" series is based on the Tibetan Book of the Dead and offers a Buddhist speculation into the mystery of what post-death experience can be.

According to Badgley, Ken Flett feels his painted-over photographic studies of the disenfranchised from our society do more to help them than did any of his time with the Ministry of Social Services.

Charles Malinsky, a painter from Calgary but who is represented in Victoria, deals with emotional responses to sexuality and sexual domination, using his own wife as a model. Okano, a Vancouver artist, is a human rights advocate and often finds herself in the controversial arenas of feminism and politics. Paul Chizik, also from Vancouver, paints minimalist portraits and landscapes in a style reminiscent of the artist, Alex Colville.

George Jorgensen of Vancouver is self-taught and experiments in a variety of media to deliver his anti-establishment views.

Lastly, Bo Talsma, another local painter, presents his visions of new Age and Judeo-Christian spiritualism on canvasses which reveal his very meticulous style of brushwork. Badgley hopes the show will lead the public away from "pretty picture art and take (it) into thinking art."

Many artists believe they can not worry about what the public might think of their work if they want to remain true to their ideas. Finlay, for one, isn't too worried about how his work will be accepted. "Quite honestly, I don't care. I think that's true of all the artists in the Seymour show: if there's this idea of sacrifice, it's that they're not willing to compromise. They have a fairly clear intent and they will pursue it, whether or not it's popular with the public."

Martin Stein is a freelance writer who, who although under 30, thinks he has proven a seriousness and dedication to his art — writing.



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Reflections on a Near Future, from the Death Plane series.

(Acceptance of Death)

by Gordon Finlay

1993, oil on canvas

46" X 46"