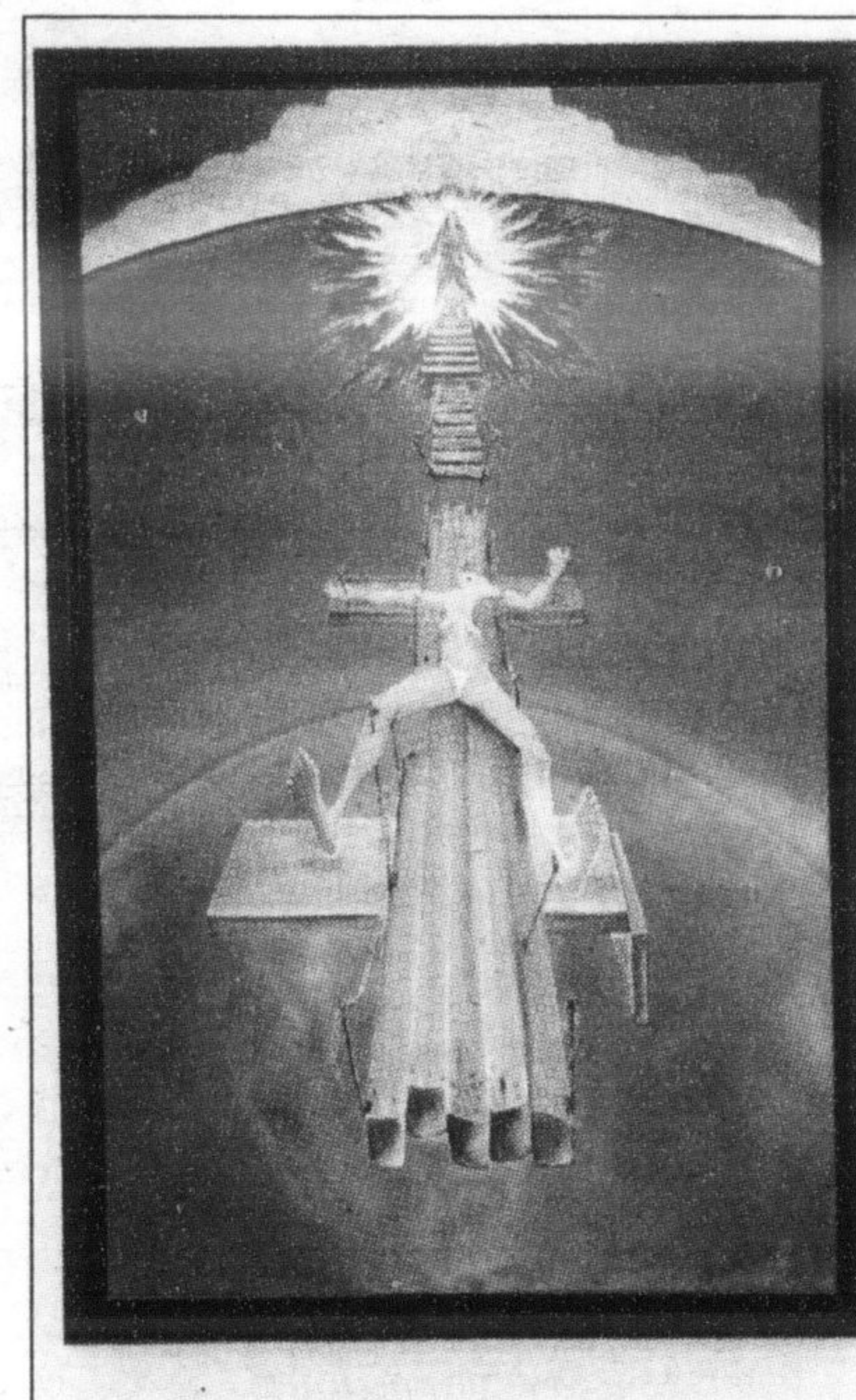


ON DISPLAY: Russell Jodway shows some of his work that's currently being displayed at the A.M. Gallery.

GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION



Art gets personal for surrealist painter

Jodway and Visual Insanity peers featured at A.M. Gallery

Pinpointing just what makes surrealism art appealing can be as daunting a task as its very creation.

To that end, Russell Jodway often refers to the carefully-crafted description that can be found on his website.

"Surrealism and art in its true form has merit unbound by principle of composition and yet bound by theoretical laws of colour and form. Surrealism allows one to create a relationship between multiple ideas to create a subject matter that is transferred from the

mind to paper by way of visual imagery, leaving the viewer to interpret without direction."

The founder of Visual Insanity — now a collection of abstract and surrealism artists that are being featured at Milton Mall's A.M. Gallery this month — Jodway uses this characterization when bringing his pieces to life.

Originally creating watercolour landscapes as a child and gradually 'evolving' to animated surrealism and eventually straight surrealism, he's ventured into a seemingly

endless array of artistic avenues over the years.

In fact, about the only constant in his work is the detailed sketch required before his paintbrush touches the canvas.

"I always question myself, so I need this (sketch) before starting," explained Jodway, whose work has been displayed at the former Hummingbird Centre in Toronto, as well as at many libraries across southern Ontario. "The inspiration comes from within, and the finished piece is very close to the original vision.

"The art becomes very personal. It's amaz-

ing was the subconscious can come up with. It's like unlocking a secret part of yourself."

Jodway and his Visual Insanity cohorts — including Enzo Massotta (expressionist, surrealist), Fedor Yatsik (expressionist), Peter Young (photographer) — plus special guest 'hyper-surrealist' Alexandra Doyle will hold their 'Beyond the Eye of the Beholder' exhibition at the gallery throughout April.

The A.M. Gallery — a collaboration between Arts Milton, the Fine Arts Society of Milton and Milton Mall — is open Wednesdays to Sundays during regular mall hours.

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