



B A R A K A T

MIRROR OF ALL AGES & CULTURES

P-R-E-S-S R-E-L-E-A-S-E

SAGI VAS

The canvasses of Israeli born artist Sagi Vas sweep us along in her vision of exploration and metamorphosis. This theme is clearly stated in her largest piece in the current group show, *The Edge*. Hers is an unusual blend of painstaking realism with surreal internal landscapes, which echo her theme of change with all the discomfort it engenders, as well as the peace it ultimately achieves.

This same theme is stated again in a uniquely feminine way in *The Rebirth (Etched In Stone)*, a piece full of the vibrancy and violence of birth itself. The woman is giving birth not to another being, but to herself. "My work is incredibly positive," states the artist. "All the changes we go through are not to be feared, but are to be embraced as they present us with new horizons. This is why the sky appears in so much of my work. There is always a new horizon. There is always hope."

This universal theme of change and rebirth is stated again in the third piece, *Risen Above*, where the old city at the bottom of the canvass is burning away. We are uplifted along with the strong and peaceful figure who floats above the diminishing remains of what he has outgrown.

Another theme which the artist is concentrating on increasingly in current work is that of man and what he has done to nature. Often she uses architecture as the symbol for man's abusive response to his natural habitat, as can be seen in both *Risen Above's* burning buildings, and in *The Edge's* man attempting to break out of the building which seems to trap him, and escape to the blue skies beyond.

Sagi is an international artist whose works have been featured in galleries in Korea, Scotland, Canada, and her native Israel, and has also been exhibited in New York, Boston, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, La Jolla, Long Beach, and Pasadena. In Los Angeles her works have been on display at UCLA, the Ivey Gallery, the University of Judaism, the Eva Dorog Gallery, and several others.

Her educational background is as extensive as her impressive list of exhibitions. Graduating first from the Academy of Fine Arts in Utrecht, Holland, she went on to the Glasgow School of Art in Scotland, and subsequently received a degree from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, followed by an advanced degree from California State University at Northridge.

One of several artists being featured in the Barakat Gallery's Inaugural Group Show, Sagi Vas's Mixed Media paintings will be on display throughout the month of April.