

**ANDREA BLANAR**

*"Homage To The Sea"*



**July 28 to August 25, 1994**  
**East Gallery**

To enter Andrea Blonar's exhibition "Icons - Homage to the Sea" is to cross the threshold that divides our daily routine from those rarefied moments in which we sense a harmony of coexistence with nature. Blonar's cycle of images, elaborately set within the framework of medieval ecclesiastical decoration, engenders a multi-levelled reading of the artist's annual pilgrimage to the Bay of Fundy coast and inland marshes of New Brunswick. This region is transformative, explains the artist, for it is here that we become transfixed by the rhythm of an eternal play between creation and destruction and where we may locate our position within the universal continuum of life. Echoing the rise and fall of the Fundy tide, the pattern of our engagement and withdrawal as we pass from one station along this spiritual journey to the next, marks a cumulative process of self-revelation in which we, like the artist, may become aware of the aesthetic unity of being.

Central to the interpretation of Blonar's work is our re-enactment of the artistic process. Compelled by the rhythmic configuration of the Fundy panorama, we are drawn closer, only to realize that the order of nature extends through each progressively magnified field of view. Blonar's provision of multiple perspectives, evident in her juxtaposition of patterned two-dimensional frames with illusory three-dimensional tableaux, recaptures the amazement we feel when faced with nature's infinite and infinitesimal perfection. In order to come to terms with the magnitude of creation, and to effectively position ourselves within the overarching hierarchy of life, we oscillate between the macro- and micro-cosmic -- from the single blade of grass to the inland sea of fields. The genesis of our world, like that of the work of art evolves through a blending and layering of form upon colour to that point of saturation, beyond which we return again to nothingness.

The accretion of human civilization in which we have become confined has hidden the ineluctable order of nature from view, and with it the exhilarating sense of belonging we experience in communion with its primal force. For Blonar, it is the artist's responsibility to retune our senses so that we might regain an awareness of the delicate balance of our existence. Through her windowed vistas of the unspoiled regions along the Fundy coast, where the panoply of life persists unfettered, we come to recognize the relevance of this order to our individual and communal well-being.

*from Locating Blonar: "Icons" and the Order of Nature by Anna Hudson*

You are invited to meet the artist on Thursday, July 28 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

For further information please contact Judi Schwartz at 978-2453.

Gallery Hours  
Monday to Friday - 11:00 am to 6:00 pm  
Saturday - 1:00 to 4:00 pm