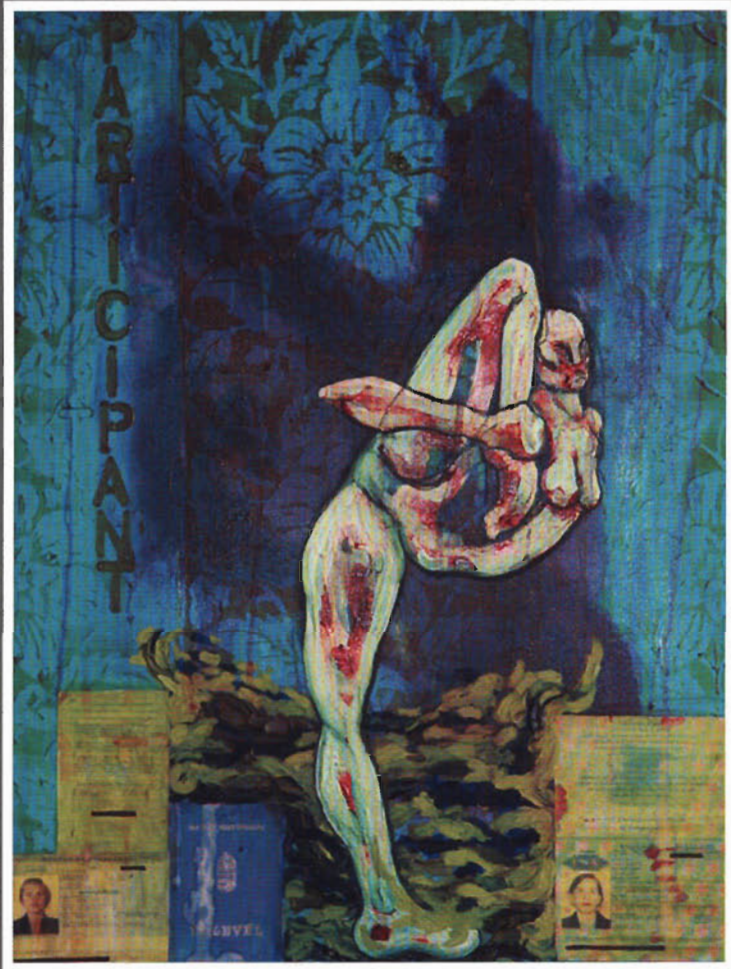


A Small Woman



It's the afternoon and I am on my way to Ildikó's home on the Spokane's south hill for an interview with Northwest Woman Magazine. She welcomes me inside and offers me a pair of cozy slippers to replace my shoes. She has a very warm and inviting air and has tea ready to offer me. I realize that she is smaller than the big impression her artwork makes. She is slim with fair skin and vibrant red hair, indicative of the passion seen in her pieces.

Ildikó Kalapács is not really concerned if people actually like her art, rather she is more interested in the reaction evoked from the viewing of it. As she puts it, "...there is more going on than meets the eye." If her artwork

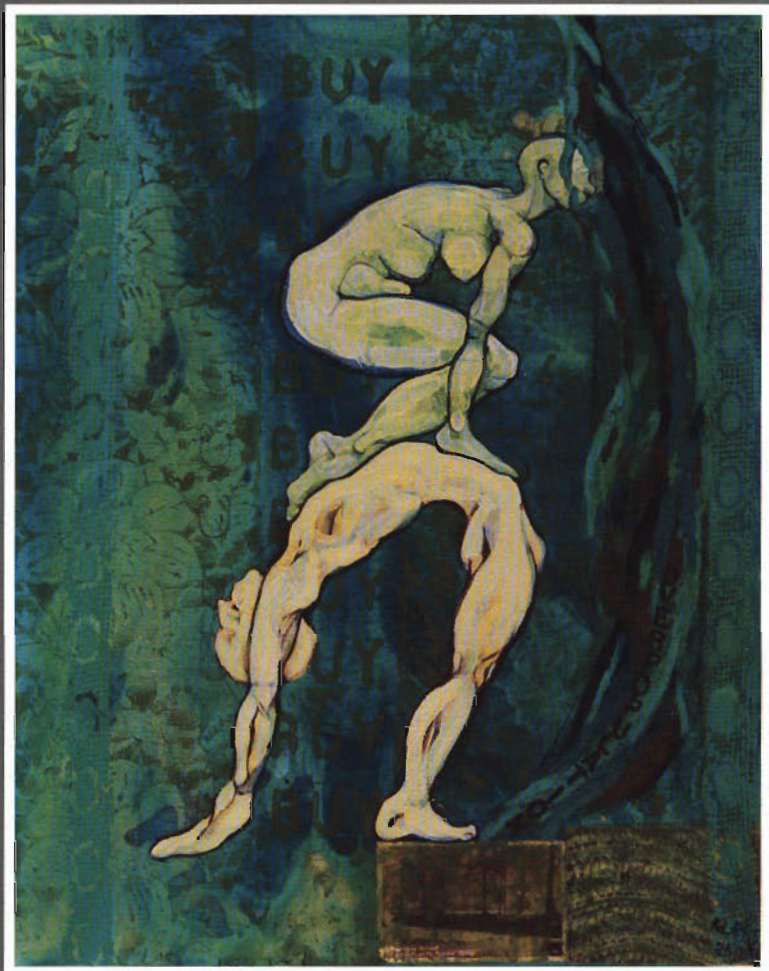
elicits a reaction, an emotion or curiosity of the subject matter then her painting has made the intended impact. Ildikó is an internally known artist and has done shows in such places as Hungary and Japan. She describes herself as a progressive person and uses her art as a conduit to awareness of world and human rights issues. Every detail of her pieces holds special meaning. The meanings are embodied within colors, textures, styles, patterns, words, the human figure and body language. In every piece she establishes balance between the individual and the big picture and that is very important to her because she grew up in a dictatorship in which balance was not present.

Ildikó spent her young life in the city of Szeged, Hungary. At age 14 she began attending art high school half time and was also very involved in dance. Ildikó found dance to be a great platform of self expression and personal fulfillment. In 1987 she met her husband through dance and at the age of 22 she came to the United States.

"I owe everything to dance." Ildikó states and it is obvious in viewing her works. "Because I'm a dancer I choose to focus on the human figure and use it as a catalyst to convey feelings and concepts such as balance," she goes on to explain, "...not balance like balancing our bodies but our lives – so its really like a metaphor for anything."

up to *Big Things*

by Debbie Hanks



Ildikó recently received exciting news that The Central European University in Budapest has invited her to show and lecture. It is an amazing honor for her. It is a very progressive school and much like Ildikó, focuses on gender issues.

I was pleased to hear that Ildikó is a fellow Eastern Eagle and received her fine arts degree from Eastern Washington University. She credits Lanny DeVuono, Art History Professor at Eastern Washington University as having a huge impact on her. She also describes Spokane as a great place to be an artist because there are so few distractions. The art community is very important to her and she loves to contribute to new artists

on an individual level. She has found there is a real need for newer artists to learn the business side of art.

She is currently working on an upcoming fundraiser to create a bigger than life size version of her sculpture called "Bearing" in which a strong woman is walking on a rugged road carrying a basket on top her head and in the basket there is a man with a cigar in his mouth and a Kalishnikov rifle across his lap.

As I wrap up the interview I realize how fortunate I am to be speaking with such a compassionate person who is up to big things. Here is a woman who is giving a voice to world issues in our own back yard and I am

left with gratitude that she has the courage and will to stand up and speak for so many people who have no voice.



For more information about Ildikó you can visit her website at www.ildikart.com