



Eulalio Fabie de Silva
"The Writing Man," 2004,
signed on front & verso,
oil on canvas, 49.5 x 49
inches

SPOTLIGHT

UP WHEN THE ECONOMY WENT DOWN: Gary W. Marr's Unconventional Brush

By Krystal Baugher

Sapere Art / Intuitive Works
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In the midst of the economic collapse, Gary Marr revolted. Instead of clinging to his corporate job like many typical Americans, he did the bizarre. He quit. After over 30 high anxiety years in the hotel industry, most recently 13 years as the Director of Catering at the largest hotel in Chicago, Marr, 52, made a drastic decision to leave mainstream corporatism and turn toward passion-filled expressionism. He became a full time artist and gallery owner.

Leaving the Hyatt in February, Marr opened Sapere Art/Intuitive Works. A gem of a gallery in the Chicago Neighborhood of Wicker Park/Bucktown, an easy 1.5 Miles from the "usual" gallery center of River North. Here, amidst an eclectic variety of artist studios winding through the Flat Iron Arts Building, Marr has managed to thrive. "Here, I can get advice,



Gary W. Marr © Kurt Kramer



R.W. Ruehlien "Aquarian Kryst Pollinating on the Throne of Existence," acrylic on canvas, 40 x 54 inches

consolation and borrow Pthalo Blue when I need to! Besides", he continued, "Why be 'usual' anymore? You have to do it differently to make it."

The name Sapere, in Latin, means "to taste," or "to perceive" and the gallery includes tantalizing treats for everyone's art palate and contemplation. Color connects 16 emerging to established Mid-Western artists; almost all of the work in the gallery stretches or plays with hues in alternative ways. "Every one that I've selected so far has a sense of uniformity, yet uniqueness, within their styles," Marr says, "I call it

juxtaposed with purpose."

The Wicker Park area is known for its hip anti-mainstream art scene, which is why Marr thought it would be a perfect location. "I fight the establishment in my own way," he says. With Edith Piaf, Gloria Estefan and even lots of Salsa thrown into the mix the gallery pulsates with music as Marr treats gallery guests with both grace and charm. He shares not only thoughtful greetings, but is always eager to help people learn about the array of featured artists. "I want people to trust me as 'a person', not 'a name' at a fancy address."