

## **BRATSA BONIFACHO: INSIDE HABITAT PIXEL** **An insider's scoop into an artist's work**

COQUITLAM - (February 7, 2012). The Art Gallery at Evergreen is proud to present an exposition of works by one of Vancouver's long-standing internationally renowned abstract expressionists, **Bratsa Bonifacho** in **Inside Habitat Pixel** opening Feb 24 at the Coquitlam-based public gallery and on display until April 7, 2012.

This mini-retrospective explores the inner thinking and methodology of the artist, and in particular focuses on his substantial oeuvre of paintings created for the series called *Habitat Pixel* and its more recent evolutions into three other series: *Human Farm*, *In Nucleo* and the most recent, *Inside the Pixel*

A total of 23 paintings have been chosen by the artist and guest curator/art critic Ann Rosenberg as pivotal to Bonifacho's development which spans a dozen years and four distinct styles. The large scale canvases are at once similar to the dominant *Habitat Pixel* formula of painted symbols, letters and words, and yet each group has its own non-verbal and abstract language, colour, shape and gesture.

Rosenberg follows and writes about this trajectory that begins with the painting *Dictionary of the Khazar* (2000), one of the very first works within the *Habitat Pixel Series* where an alphabet run is delivered in straight forward, grid-like formation.

Later works become "much more erratic." Snapshots that demonstrate, according to Rosenberg, "The varying states of health of each painted *Habitat* (or environment) for the *Pixel(s)*." She adds, "Almost all appear to have suffered from invasions by image-destroying worms and other cybernetic ailments."

For example, in the painting *Domini Canes* (2010), among the word blocks and distorted symbols are "white flashes" or pixel damage eradicated by some unexplained virus or cyber weapon. Bonifacho's fear is that these infections will bring an end to global communications as we know it.

In addition to the dynamic paintings, the exhibition includes commentary in the informal catalogue, wall texts, extended labels and a short video that reveal further observations about the generation of particular styles and individual pieces.

**Inside Habitat Pixel's** aim is to provide the viewer with an insider's scoop on what makes a body of work engaging to the artist and the onlooker. The **opening reception** will take place on **Thursday, Feb 23 from 6 - 8pm**. The artist will be in attendance. Regular gallery hours are Monday – Saturday, noon – 5pm. Visit [www.evergreenculturalcentre.ca](http://www.evergreenculturalcentre.ca) for more information.