

Scott MacLeod's Ancestral Homes



“Christian Manuscript,” G. Scott MacLeod, 2000

Scott MacLeod will present over fifty paintings and drawings in a variety of media depicting his search for his Scottish and Viking roots. The exhibition opens March 5, 2003 and runs until May 25, 2003. A preview is scheduled for March 4 at 6 pm.

Scott MacLeod’s “Ancestral Homes”, a Scandinavian and Scottish cultural lineage project, has resulted in a series of work as varied as a depiction of ancient bronze age burial sites on the Island of Gotland, to ancient Christian manuscripts of Viking ships. MacLeod’s first works involved recreating these sites in watercolor and ink. He traveled to Norway, Sweden, Denmark, the Outer Hebrides, the Shetland Islands and the Orkney Islands in search of his subject matter for this project. Using a variety of archaeological and historical sources, he explores themes of Viking and Scottish heritage and ancestry. Several of the works highlight the similarities of Scandinavian and Scottish archetypes and symbols, evidence of the overlapping

of culture.

Integrating heritage and history into contemporary art is not an easy task. What MacLeod shows us, visually, is that there is no such thing as “pure” race. We tend to think of the multi-cultural world as a modern phenomena, but in truth, much of human history contains intermingling. MacLeod reminds us that intercultural mixing was part of the development of distinct northern European cultures, and the nomadism of the Vikings is a perfect example of this.

MacLeod has a deep commitment to cross-cultural communication. He has participated in a series of exchanges with artists in Mexico; he exhibited in Ireland as a benefit for Amnesty International; and he studied and participated in the cultures of the Canadian Squamish Nation and Plains Cree tribes.

MacLeod will be present at the opening of his exhibition and present a lecture describing his art on March 6 at 7 pm.