

Karl Gasser was born in 1948 in Pardell, Italy, a small rural village above Klausen near the monastery of Säben.

He grew up on his parents' farm, the Huberhof and he is still living there to this day. Besides painting he helps out in the local inn and in farming.

For two years Prof. Bergmann was Karl Gasser's lecturer in Brixen. His favourite technique is water-colour and his paintings are made wet-in-wet without priming.

Karl Gasser exhibited in Italy, Germany and 1986 at Artexpo, New York.

In 1984, 1985 and 1986 he participated in the spring exhibition in the House of Art, Munich.

Exhibitions in 1987

April, 4 Artexpo, New York

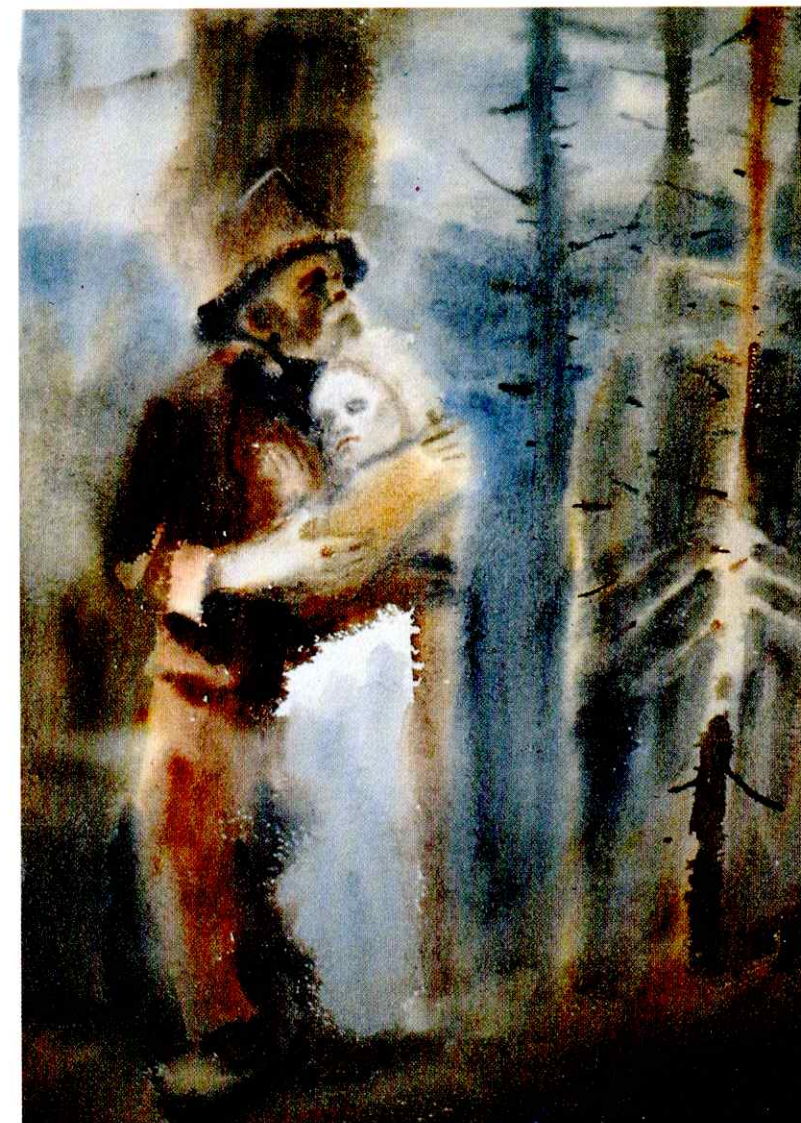
October, 16 Artexpo, Los Angeles

K. Gasser





» Woman putting on her apron «  
Water-colour-painting



» Sheltered «  
Water-colour-painting





» From where, where to «  
Water-colour-painting



» Frugal Meal «  
From a hectic state to relaxation  
Oil-painting



## The social statements of Karl Gasser

### Abraham Ilein

Many artists like to live half of the year in their home country and the other half in another. American artists like to have a place in Europe and Europeans often go to the New York area. With Karl Gasser, who spends six months in his native farm home near Chiuso in northern Italy, where he was born in 1948, and an equal time in New York City, the difference is twofold, city versus country as well. This contrast gives Gasser a special perspective on the world, one which is evident in his first solo show of paintings and watercolors in New York City, at Art 54 Gallery, 54 Greene Street, September 12 to 30. He has just finished an exhibition at the Galerie Bei Der Komodie in Augsburg, Germany.

Like most artists, Gasser 'talks' with visual images, and his mastery of imagery, his ability best to suit the image to the idea, is very important to the success of his art. Gasser's ideas and attitudes are well understood and agreed with today, but his statements on the environment ring with the authority of a person who lives this experience every day, for he earns his living as a small farmer, and a good one at that.

Gasser doesn't take us to the ozone layer but deals with the peril of smoking, because he realizes that we take this



Karl Gasser, "Smokers in the City," Art 54

poison directly into our bodies. In "Smokers in the City," the couple unites in spreading clouds of pollution in an already endangered environment. The people all stand about, waist deep in the pollution. In "Smokers," the act of receiving a light from another smoker's cigaret is seen as a kiss, an act of love, as

the young couple are face to face in profile. The irony of the action is tragic as well as obvious.

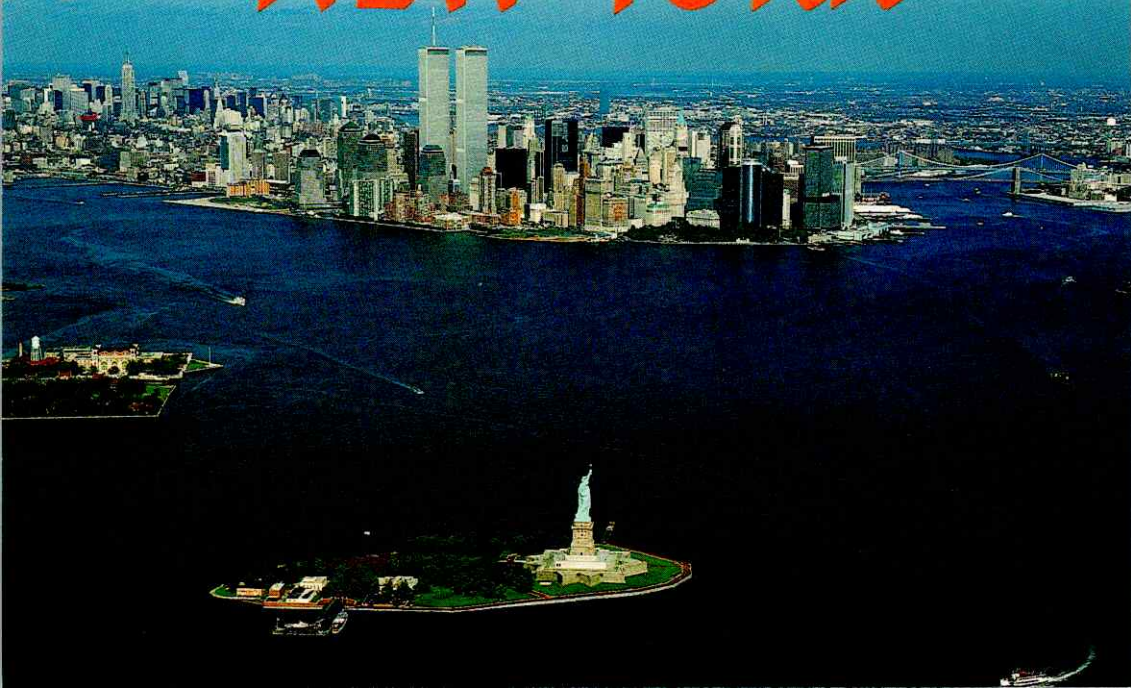
In "One out of Ten," one finds a more conceptual side of Gasser. Though these are all people, they are thought of as a unit acting together, as they ride what seems to be a sled, all enjoying

themselves. A greater symbol of man uniting with nature is seen in "Rain-bow," which spans the canvas and unites two throngs of what seems to be hardly more than dots of paint. This virtually abstract canvas calls for the unity of man and nature, to the mutual benefit and beauty of each. "City against Nature" shows how buildings of the city are encroaching on the farmer working on his land. Symbolism is carried ahead, in that the farmer is a person at work and the city is stone buildings. The farmer is in the bold sunlight, while the city is presented in darkness, lit by the artificial light from building windows and street lamps.

In "Think about," a great pan is divided in two tones at the water's edge, with bare footprints facing towards the water like so many lemmings. One can make one's own specific interpretation, but Karl Gasser is evidently becoming ever more skilled in expressing the many aspects of the harm man does himself by being in conflict with nature, rather than working with it.

The world needs a sane voice to represent a healthy attitude about the environment. Karl Gasser, man and artist of two worlds, shows himself as a person honing his skills and becoming a wise spokesman in a cause that concerns mankind more and more.

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