



From Munich comes a new Blue Rider!

-by Onni Nordman, South Bar

From 1911 to 1914 Munich was the birthplace of the Blue Rider Group (Der Blaue Reiter), a fellowship of Expressionist painters which included such esteemed pioneers of modern art as Wassily Kandinsky, Franz Marc, August Macke, and Paul Klee. They all shared a common desire to express spiritual truths through their art.

Before Expressionism art was made like this: the eye sees, the hand responds, the mind judges. Expressionism changed the process to this: the mind sees, the hand judges, the eye responds. A new, inner-directed, transphysical modern art was born. It was not just spiritual; it was exciting. It excited the eye in a brand new way, and it continues to thrill and move the open-eyed viewer to this day.

To round out the Expressionist century, Uli Schaarschmidt arrives in Cape Breton from Munich with his emotionally charged gestural art. He takes the things of the world, the things of the mind, and the things of heaven --which are also the things of Cape Breton Island-- and he makes of these things bold pictorial fireworks of emotional depth and power. It has often been said that Expressionism implies emotional angst --the number of cheerful expressionist works is relatively small. Uli's work stands firmly in the sunshine. Slap some sunscreen on your face and stand in front of the warmth and light of the art of Uli Schaarschmidt.

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