

THE   
GRIFFIS ART CENTER

INTERNATIONAL ARTIST-in-RESIDENCE PROGRAM – MAISON des ARTISTES  
NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT USA

## GUIDO GARAYCOCHEA

2004 Artist-in-Residence  
Santiago, Republic of Chile /Republic of Peru



### *" Tree of Life"*

Date Acquired: 10/11/04, Date Created: 2004  
Framed Dimensions: Unframed, Picture Dimensions: 50 x 34"  
Medium: Oil on Canvas

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## Guido GARAYCOCHEA

2004 Griffis Art Center's International  
Artist-in-Residence

*from*

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Republic of  
Chile  
/Republic  
of Peru



"The Pre-Colombian cultures of my native Peru and specifically the gold ceremonial mummy mask of the Chimú culture inspire my work. To understand my artistic pursuits, I searched my historical roots. Life-Death, the duality of the history in one element, the mummy mask, and the human conflict is always present in my work... As in life, I search for equilibrium in my art. Central to my work is the reconciliation of external, learned conventions of religions, society and culture with my personal experiences."

Garaycochea begins with loose spontaneous washes of greatly thinned oil paint. This he follows with a series of transparent glazes and tints, applied painstakingly with a soft cloth. Each layer of pigment takes its cues from the previous. Interspersed is gold leaf. During this process, visual composition begins to emerge - upon which he then elaborates. In his own words, "It is like when we are in that half asleep/half waking state. We realize that we are dreaming and it is almost possible to control the course of our dreams."

Garaycochea was born in Lima, Peru in 1961. He studied Art at the "Escuela Nacional Superior de Bellas Artes del Perú", a very strict and conservative school of beauty Art. The 1980's for Perú were a strong time because of Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path); Peruvian terrorists and at the beginning of the 90's the country was virtually in a civil war.

In 1992-93 he moved to Chile and resumed his studies, and spent 12 years there. He studied History of Art, Aesthetic and Theory of Art. He also taught for more than 7 years in two important Chilean Universities. (Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile and Universidad Metropolitana de Ciencias de la Educacion )

Duality has been the principal theme of his work. He is trying to explore inside the depths of the human being, particularly inside himself, expressing through his visual work, his own contradictions, his own dual feelings, and also his deepest human characteristics.