



A portion of Gershon Iskowitz' studio.

Gershon Iskowitz
Detail of *Hunger*, 1951, pen and ink, 19 1/4" x 12 1/2"



city. It all shows in his studio on Spadina Avenue, where he has lived for the past ten years. A long room with a skylight. One end partitioned off for sleeping. Canvases carefully stacked against the wall. Paint tubes neatly laid out in long rows. Everything in its place. Nothing superfluous.

"All my life I've been searching. I don't give a damn about society. I just want to do my own work - to express my own feelings, my own way of thinking. Painting is just an extension of myself. It's a plastic interpretation of the way I think. It's just me."

Gershon doesn't like to talk about his paintings. They are not easy to talk about. Intuitive and spontaneous, they appeal totally to the senses. They express a transcendental state which defies rational analysis. Because of their large scale and tremendous subtlety of color, reproductions are next to useless: they must be experienced physically.

Gershon's paintings are about nature. They contain all the basic elements of nature: color, space, light, atmosphere, growth. And you can find in them the same moods you experience before nature: peace, serenity, joy, awesome power, and even fear. They are also of the North, an area he knows well. Although he used to sketch before nature, he now just lets the landscape act upon him. His ideas may come from a helicopter ride over the northern landscape or a long afternoon