

# Gerd Koidl: No stranger to the HK art scene

30 of the hotelier's  
Daliesque paintings  
to be exhibited

**W**HEN not rushing around hotels in his role as project director for Hyatt International, Gerd Koidl can be found with paints, brushes and canvas at the ready in his other role, that of an artist.

Koidl will be exhibiting his work — 30 Daliesque paintings — at the Foreign Correspondents' Club from June 7-19.

The Austrian is no stranger to Hongkong's visual arts scene. His works were first exhibited at the 1977 Festival of Asian Art. In 1990 he held his first local solo exhibition, followed by a critically acclaimed private exhibition last year.

Born into a family of artists, mainly musicians, Koidl is a veteran Asia hand having worked in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh as well as Hongkong since the '60s.

His addiction to painting, he confesses, provides a diversion and escape from work.

"I started to experiment with different styles and techniques before I acquired a unique relief technique, using special collage material such as clay, gesso, aluminium foil, cast paper and gold leaf.

"I place these on a wooden board or canvas and then engrave and paint on them."

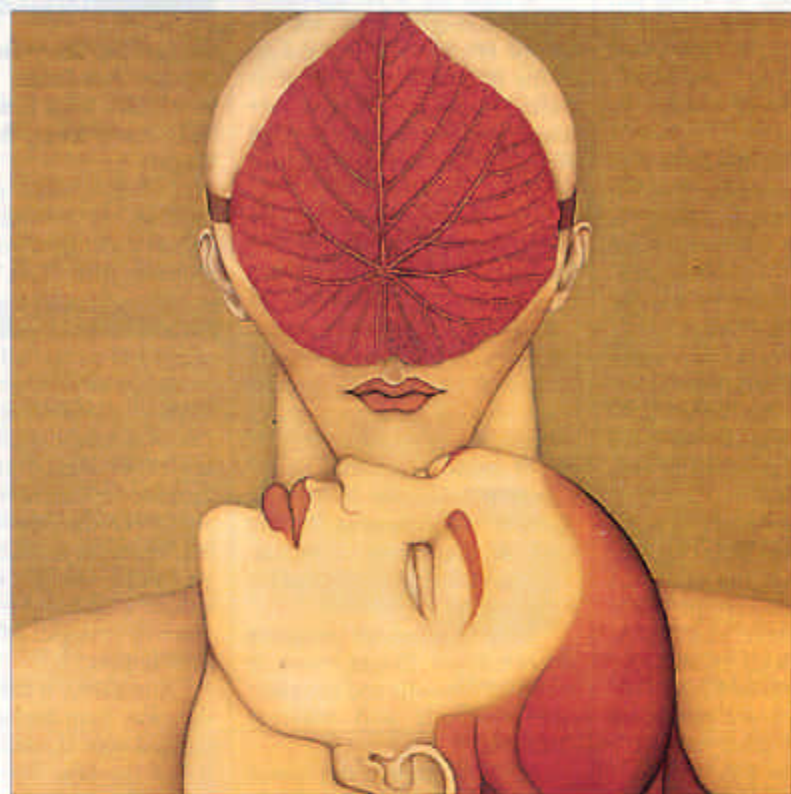
His painted reliefs have an element of fantasy about them, reminiscent of the human predicament with its emotional desires and limits.

"The approaches and themes," Koidl says, "are symbolic of the corporate life cycle and management pyramid structures."

The principal influence behind Koidl's



Gerd Koidl's  
*A Window  
of the Past:*  
on show at  
the Foreign  
Correspondents'  
Club.



*Autumn  
Love:* A  
curious but  
effective  
mixture of  
surrealism,  
fantastic  
realism and  
academic  
19th century  
art.

creations was a brief artistic movement, described as Fantastic Realism, in Austria in the 1940s.

Its main proponents, according to Koidl, were Erich Baumer, Ernst Fuchs and Rudolf Hausner.

"Their curious paintings offered an arresting mix of surrealism, fantasy art,

and academic 19th century painting," he says, adding that he was also "influenced by Gustave Klimt, particularly his fascination with colour and pattern."

The hotelier, who had his first solo exhibition in Frankfurt in 1972, has also participated in a number of joint exhibitions.

— By VERNON RAM