



**Shaw TV News Feature
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Air Date: May 7, 2008**



News Anchor: For many of us it is hard enough to draw something with a steady hand when it is right in front of us on a flat surface. But imagine trying to create an artwork while the scenery is flying past you at 80km an hour! That is exactly what artist Michael Markowsky did for his exhibit at Axis Contemporary Gallery. Nicole Walker has details with this advice, 'don't try this yourself!'

Reporter: We are told there are certain things we shouldn't do when behind the wheel, talking on the phone or putting on make-up a just a couple of them. Well how about driving and drawing? That's exactly what artist Michael Markowsky began doing until he had a sort of 'do not try this at home' moment. It was at that time he realized he best leave the driving to someone else. Still the wild antics of the Calgary-born Californian caught the eye of the art-world:

Markowsky: "You know, I've done other things since where I'm in a nice calm environment, and they just don't produce the same excitable quality of lines... There is just something about it when I am moving and I have to make these really quick decisions that beautiful stuff arises from it."

Reporter: Markowsky has traveled around the California coast and French Riviera, sketching what had just flashed before his eyes, all the while the car or bus he was traveling in or on continued its trek:

Markowsky: "I got friends of mine involved and they started driving me around... We did a project where they strapped me to this roof of the car as we drove through the California desert near Joshua Tree, north east of Los Angeles, at 120 km/h, while I'm making paintings on the roof of the car! Last summer I did one in Venice, Italy, where I was doing drawing on a powerboat while going down the Grand Canal."

Reporter: Markowsky is hoping his works will help generate interest in art, especially for those who've never gone to a gallery:



Markowsky: "You don't have to like it! There is so much disagreement about what art is... there are some artists who don't like what I'm doing! There is no 'one thing' that is art. I want to people to come in and just check it out."

Reporter: Nicole Walker, Shaw TV, Calgary.

News Anchor: Very interesting! Michael Markowsky's exhibit "The Driving Paintings" runs at the Axis Contemporary Art Gallery until May 12th.