

MARVELOUS ART MAGAZINE

Feel The MARVELOUS ART.

FEBRUARY 2023
ISSUE NO:12

Cover Artwork by Lucia Aryja Červenková

THE FEBRUARY ISSUE FEATURING : ELI ŠOTEK PHOTOGRAPHY / GAYA LASTOVJAK / GISELE CRIPER / IULIA IEPURE / JULIA KUZINA / KATE THEODOSIOU / KATHRYN SKVARLA / KORA CORINA STRUPI / KRISTEN MARGIOTTA / LUCIA ARYJA ČERVENKOVÁ / NATALIA SANDOVAL / RUBEN CUKIER

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS WITH : GAYA LASTOVJAK / JULIA KUZINA

ARTISTS

Lucia Aryja Červenková
(aka Aryjaphotography)

Eli Šotek Photography

Gaya Lastovjak

Gisele Criper

Iulia Iepure

Julia Kuzina

Kate Theodosiou

Kathryn Skvarla

Kora Corina Strupi

Kristen Margiotta

Natalia Sandoval

Ruben Cukier

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS WITH :

Gaya Lastovjak

Julia Kuzina



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LUCIA ARYJA ČERVENKOVÁ



www.instagram.com/aryja.photography

*Model: Katerina Zapletalova , Pure Model Management
Headpiece: Treasures from Jitkita*

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FEATURED COVER ARTIST
LUCIA ARYJA ČERVENKOVÁ

Model: Katerina Zapletalova, Pure Model Management

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Model: Eliska Zamazalova

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**FEATURED COVER ARTIST
LUCIA ARYJA ČERVENKOVÁ**

Models: Sisters Ester and Klara Smetanik

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LUCIA ARYJA ČERVENKOVÁ**



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Model: Ruzena Molnarova , Outfitter Models

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FEATURED COVER ARTIST
LUCIA ARYJA ČERVENKOVÁ

Model : Olga Babij
Headpiece : Thessa dela technique

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FEATURED ARTIST
ELI ŠOTEK



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FEATURED ARTIST
ELI ŠOTEK

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FEATURED ARTIST :
ELI ŠOTEK



"I am a fantasy photographer from Slovakia, and photography is not just a dream job for me, but a passion. And therefore, I put the most important thing into every project - my heart. In addition, I love nature and all supernatural and magical things. That's why I like it the most when I can combine all these aspects into one work and create a unique fantasy photo, that allows me and my clients to escape into our own fantasy world."

I started with photography three years ago and immediately fell in love with it, as it allowed me to unleash my creative soul. I love to create new concepts, but especially those that have some deeper meaning and story behind them. Thus, one of the things that makes me happy about photography is that through it I help not only myself, but also others to express their feelings, thoughts or stories. Therefore, each of my photos is not only a pretty picture, but an expression of the deepest feelings and fantasies."

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FEATURED ARTIST
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FEATURED ARTIST
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FEATURED ARTIST
KRISTEN MARGIOTTA

FEATURED ARTIST :**KRISTEN MARGIOTTA**

"Fire, dripping pearl tears, and white lilies whose potent fragrance is often experienced at funerals, are abound in my work. I am at a pivotal moment in my career, a new beginning, a new cycle of art that is a reflection of my growth first as a person, and as an artist. My recent body of narrative work centers around the human figure and nature to uncover and reveal personal truth. Influence from art history, symbolism, and figures from mythology and religious imagery, are packaged up all in one and given a new, fresh, voice, to learn, and grow from. This work is a departure from my "big eyed" fine artwork and book illustrations that spanned my 17+ year career.



My recent work is about transformation of oneself, and cycles that end so that new can begin. How we can move beyond limitations and hardships and transform them into something beautiful that unlocks our inner fire. Being the daughter of an Italian immigrant, with two parents who demonstrated hard work, and loving support, as well as my religious upbringing and interests have influenced my work both visually as well as my work ethic, and authenticity.

My paintings, both indirect paintings and the quick "alla prima" works, are raw and emotive, and though they have a "dark" flare, they are alive and reflect what I think we are meant to be as human beings: powerful, determined, and with the ability to overcome. By discovering who we really are, we can transform ourselves, and move forward in a positive way in this lifetime, and hopefully help and uplift others in the process. My goal for my artwork is to reach people, to touch them or connect with them, to bring joy, and help them heal."

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FEATURED ARTIST
KRISTEN MARGIOTTA

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FEATURED ARTIST
KORA CORINA STRUPI



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FEATURED ARTIST
KORA CORINA STRUPI

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FEATURED ARTIST :**KORA CORINA STRUPI**

"Kora Corina is an emerging fine artist (surrealist oil painter) & tattoo artist from Slovenia, specializing in portraits, flowers and surrealism.

She has 7 years of experience designing tattoos (neotraditional, realism, lineart, surrealism, new school, black and grey, mandala) and fine art (traditional painting). Recently she started with digital painting 2 years ago. She is 23 years old artist from Slovenia. She also taught in private art school for 2 years, participated in several group exhibitions (in Prague, London, Dubaj, Ljubljana) and had her solo exhibition in Ljubljana several times. She also exhibited her artworks on tattoo conventions.



She mostly paints flowers and faces. When painting faces, she places special emphasis focus on the eyes, as she believes that the eyes are the mirror of the soul. Technically, hyperrealism and realism predominate in her paintings, and in recent years she has become increasingly fascinated by surrealism. She creates in oil and acrylic techniques. She says inspiration is extremely important in her artistic expression, which is why different emotions are intertwined in her works.

Kora Corina states of herself, "When I paint, all other thought stops and I create new images in a state of meditation of sorts. In my artistic creation, I am often guided by the unconscious part of me and the hand with the brush becomes just a tool for expression. Artistic expression is deep within me, written in my genes, in my soul and I believe it will accompany me throughout my life journey."

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FEATURED ARTIST
KORA CORINA STRUPI

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FEATURED ARTIST
IULIA IEPURE



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IULIA IEPURE

www.behance.net/iuliaiepure1?tracking_source=search_users|iulia%20iepure

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**FEATURED ARTIST :
IULIA IEPURE**



"I have always been fascinated by a world that doesn't exist. I have discovered that I can translate my thoughts and ideas into photographs. I want to send the viewer into forgotten fantasy worlds that can only be visited in our imagination, for nature and familiars are very close to my soul. My work is heavily influenced by macabre elements such as dark folklore, fantasy, gothic, paganism and witchcraft. Tolkien and Edgar Allan Poe are responsible for my passion for fantasy and the macabre, as well as the victorian and medieval eras. Another factor that influences my art is music. I try to overcome the demons and ghosts of our subconscious that lurk and sometimes possess us by creating images that are visually pleasing but also send shivers down your spine."

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FEATURED ARTIST
KATHRYN SKVARLA



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FEATURED ARTIST
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Ginkgo Greene @ginkgogreene

**FEATURED ARTIST :
KATHRYN SKVARLA**



Title: Bouquet of flowers: Self Portrait



"Kathryn is a photographer, art director, and digital artist from Washington State, USA. Coming from a filmmaking background, she is inspired by visual storytelling and the unique emotional relationship cinema can provide to individuals. Her photography style depicts horror, fantasy, and dark undertones mixed into the natural world which renders a surreal space that expands the imagination. She aims to empower her subjects to explore and have fun in their creative expression. Kathryn hopes to expand into aspects of costume, makeup and prop design in order to bring more life and detail into her projects."

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FEATURED ARTIST
KATHRYN SKVARLA

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FEATURED ARTIST
NATALIA SANDOVAL



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FEATURED ARTIST
NATALIA SANDOVAL

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**FEATURED ARTIST :
NATALIA SANDOVAL**



"Natalia Sandoval (1995, Murcia), from a timeless way that obeys the concept of vanitas, presents us with what we are not visible, a mosaic that becomes like in the Choir of Stones by T.S. Elliot: Where is the life we've wasted living? Where is the wisdom that we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge that we have lost in information? A bony, fragmented room, about to disappear, violently absorbed by a black hole that is time and death, scrutinizes us to ask us if it is possible, now, for the inevitable to coexist in the reflection of our own experience, in the acceptance of what we are and we do not see, as objects that are in turn jewels —by way of reminders— of our ephemeral passage through an abyss where only what is lost is what can comfort us in the face of what we are no longer. (Josep Tornero, Sept 2022) She graduated in Fine Arts (University of Murcia) in 2017, she would also graduate at the same university in 2021 after finishing her studies in the Master of Production and Art Management. In that same year, she completed an Erasmus grant stay at the University of Ioannina (Greece) during which he held what would be her second group exhibition, held at the same university of Ioannina. Subsequently (2017) she made a stay at an artistic residency in Uddebo (Sweden)."



FEATURED ARTIST
NATALIA SANDOVAL

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FEATURED ARTIST
JULIA KUZINA



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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH JULIA KUZINA

Hello Dear Julia Kuzina. Thank you for giving us the chance to Interview with you. Our first question is what's your background?

Thanks for the interview. I'm happy to talk to you.

I paint my paintings with oil on canvas. I started my career in art 9 years ago. For 1 year I was searching for my style, I was painting flowers and celestial landscapes in a minimalist style. It was a tribute to the beauty of nature, but in surrealism I find more opportunities for self-expression.

In addition to painting, I can easily admire any handiwork. To create something with my hands makes me happier. I was fond of amigurumi, beading, macramé. I've loved the beads so much so they blended in with my work, and I made a series of paintings and beads attached to them.

I have been studied at a children's art school and still remember it with warmth. This is one of the best times of my life. My higher education isn't about art, I took a wrong turn at some point.

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and what drove you to choose art as a career?

I like to draw as long as I could remember. I was good at it. I made funny pictures about my friends, I drew cartoons of teachers at school, I drew posters, I drew creative works for myself and for my friends. To my shame, my textbooks and notebooks were always painted. I was one of the best in my class of art school. And I didn't realize that I could choose art as a profession. I was just a girl who was good at drawing. I liked the challenges back then, I liked mathematics and economics, and drawing was easy for me. At that time, a lot of people were becoming lawyers and economists, and I got into economics, too.

When I came to university, I had a paper folder with me and I sketched people on the subway. In the dorm, I met some art students and I thought, "Wow, I could have done that, why haven't I thought about it before".

In the building where I studied was the faculty of art upstairs, sometimes I went up there and enjoy the familiar smell of paint. I was still attracted to art.

After the university, I worked in a bank and an office and did not draw. One day I went to a master class in oil painting. It was terrible, I didn't learn anything there, but I realized that painting is what I want to do. Life still led me to where it all began. Just my path was not straight, but with a huge loop.

I am self-taught in oil painting.

Could you describe your normal day as an artist?

In the morning I am not very active, so I start my day with a routine computer job. Check open calls, update website and portfolio. I start painting after lunch. There are periods between big oil paintings when I don't paint anything, just draw sketches.

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We want to know the origins of 'imaginary realism', which is the main theme in your works. Can you tell us more about why you choose this theme for your main theme?

The origin is an attempt to capture visual images that respond to strong emotions. I was going through a difficult time and I could share my experiences with art.

The subjects of earlier works are darker so its flat primitive style is intended to isolate the viewer from their pain. With changing the direction from the fragility of humans to the vulnerability of nature, the painting style is transformed to more realistic.

I feel a connection to nature and it manifests itself in my paintings as new beings. The images alternate to form a fragile peace between reality and sleep.

What do you believe it means to be an artist and how did you start with your art adventure?

To be an artist means to see the world from a different angle, to learn yourself and the world. To search, to explore. To look for beauty everywhere. Never lose the ability to wonder. To transform what surrounds us into visual images so that others can see the world as we see and feel it. To do something new. Create new worlds. When I paint I feel out of time and space. I feel like all artists at the same time.

I remember sketching for a painting that started a series of my works. So I just went back to drawing when I was an adult and didn't know what was going on in the art world. I was sitting in the park with an album and I was drawing, and my kid was sleeping in a wheelchair. I had a super idea to draw a girl with a fish and I was looking for a proportion of her face that didn't make clear was she an adult or a child, beautiful or terrible. I was so passionate that I lost the keys to my apartment. It's still a mystery to me because I've never lost valuable things before.

Later, as I immersed in the modern art world, I learned about pop surrealism, magical realism, loabrow, met the work of many artists working in a similar genre and even saw several paintings where the girl holds fish, created around the same time.

What are the biggest challenges artists face and how did you overcome them?

For me, the biggest challenge is words. I find it difficult to describe my feelings and thoughts with words. I have a figurative thinking. I know it's not uncommon for artists. But words are needed for public speaking, to describe your work. Most of the time, I can't describe or even title my painting in the process. It comes later when I begin to analyze what I was feeling, what I was thinking about and what was happening when I started it.

I wish I could write beautiful stories to my paintings, maybe write and illustrate a book, but it's more a fantasy. I hope the ability to express my thoughts with words comes with experience, I try.

What are some of your favorite sources of inspiration?

Nature is an inexhaustible source of inspiration. Nature is a perfect creator. All its creations are perfect. Living beings are amazing and beautiful. The imagination of nature is inimitable. I don't wait for inspiration to come to me. Inspiration comes during work. I start drawing something (no matter what) and it comes.

How do you choose the subject of your painting and what is your creative process like?

At first the idea must appear. It's rarely the whole painting usually small details. I sketch what came to my mind or write down notes when I don't have a sketchbook. I have a big note with ideas on my phone.

Anything can be an inspiration for me: my emotional experience, an injured finger, a cut tree, a sky, light and shadow, color, words. This is a fleeting emotional response transformed into a visual form. And this visual form may have nothing in common with the source of inspiration.

I see beauty in many things, especially in nature.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH JULIA KUZINA

I often take the sketchbook don't knowing what I'm going to draw and ideas appear in the process of drawing. I look through my notes with ideas and my old sketchbooks to add details.

When I think that I found something great, I want to paint it ASAP, I even can't sleep thinking how cool it is. It's like falling in love.

Then I took reference photos. I take pictures of myself, my ball-jointed doll, clay head, and other objects that I need for painting. One day, in order to draw a bird, I photographed a pear by inserting legs from a doll in it.

I've made a clay head of my character, it helps me a lot to put the right light and shadows on the face. After that, I make a detailed sketch of the future painting and transfer it to the canvas. There's a lot to do to create a painting.

When I paint the original idea may transform into something else. Painting takes on a life of its own. My paintings are multilayer. It takes me a month or more to finish a painting. But I usually paint several paintings at one time.

Can you talk about any other current or upcoming projects?

I'm going through a phase where all my current paintings are done and I feel something new is growing within me. I like this feeling. It's like something great is about to happen.

So far I have plans to participate in several exhibitions and maybe to live in new places.

Anything else you'd like to mention that I didn't ask?

Sometimes the paintings begin to live their own life, not with the original meaning I gave them.

I say that paintings tell stories because in my imagination my paintings are dynamic, some-thing has happened before and is about to happen, and what remains on the canvas is like a frame taken out of the film.

The story they tell is different for everyone and I love it when people share them with me. Feel free to share them with me.

I hope people will be able to see the beauty in what many people think is ugly, prosaic, or in-conspicuous, to treat all living beings and nature more carefully because we all are connected.



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FEATURED ARTIST
RUBEN CUKIER



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FEATURED ARTIST
RUBEN CUKIER

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**FEATURED ARTIST :
RUBEN CUKIER**



"As a visionary artist, my work explores the complexities of the human experience in a rapidly changing world. I am particularly interested in the relationship between the individual and the massification of society, and the ways in which this dynamic shapes our understanding of ourselves and our place in the world. My work often delves into themes of loneliness and the hierarchies of power, using the medium of oil painting to create striking and evocative images that provoke thought and emotion in the viewer.

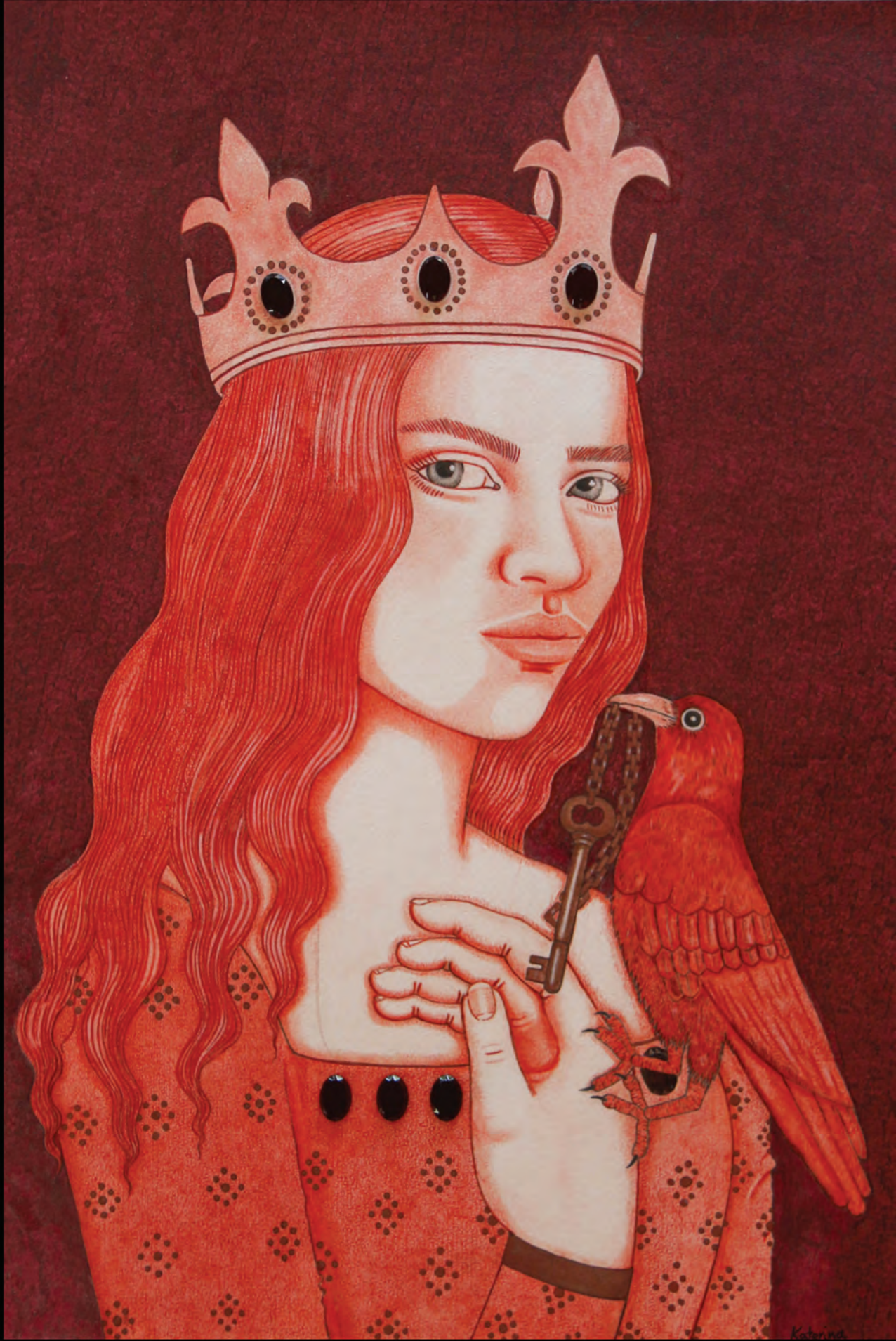
My painting style is characterized by a bold use of color and form, as well as a strong attention to detail and composition. I strive to create works that are both visually striking and intellectually engaging, inviting the viewer to consider their own place in the world and the ways in which they are affected by the forces of massification and power. Through my art, I hope to spark dialogue and inspire deeper reflection on the human condition in the modern age."



FEATURED ARTIST
RUBEN CUKIER

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FEATURED ARTIST
KATE THEODOSIOU



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FEATURED ARTIST : KATE THEODOSIOU



Fine Artist and illustrator with a love for fantasy art.

"Born in Cyprus I studied in the UK and Italy , Fashion Design and Photography and after my studies went on to gain valuable work experiences in both fields and in Mass Media. I worked for major magazines as a Fashion Editor and Stylist, and minor projects for Theater and TV as a Stylist and art department assistant.

From 2007 till 2012, I launched my own Luxury Leather Accessories label under the name of Chrysalis by Kate, having trained for 6 months in Florence in the ways of leather artisans .

In the meantime I kept and keep challenging my creative limits by taking part in various artistic contests and exhibitions in my native Cyprus and internationally.

Some of my works even managed to get me some recognition in the form of awards .The "Judges Encouragement Award" in 2018 and the First Prize for the Graphic Category at the Art of Possibilities Art Show and Sale from Courage Kenny in Minneapolis.

Furthermore three of my works now belong in the permanent collection of the China Printmaking Museum. In the summer of 2016, i illustrated the covers and inside art for two poetry books "Your Ink on my soul" and "In my own flood" respectively. And I co-illustrated another non-fiction book.

My work, mainly mixed media illustrations done with markers, pencil, ink and water colours on paper, explore themes of feelings and personal struggles- usually the tension between inner emotions and their outer expression. Mythology and folk tales from around the world also provide inspiration for her to create some of her figurative, detailed, graphic like works."

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Katerina 2020

FEATURED ARTIST
KATE THEODOSIOU

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FEATURED ARTIST
GAYA LASTOVJAK



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GAYA LASTOVJAK

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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH GAYA LASTOVJAK

Hello Dear Gaya Lastovjak. Thank you for giving us the chance to Interview with you. Our first question is what's your background?

I was born in Lithuania but from the age of fourteen I moved with my parents to Poland, where I live to this day. I am a master of art history by education. I have no artistic education, you can call me a self-taught artist. Everything I know today, I learned in extra classes or on my own, based on observation, experiments with art and various materials. My artistic background is not too big, but I have a huge fascination, ambition and striving for a goal. Dreams give me strength, my family supports me in difficult times, and reading biographies of various artists gives me hope that I will be successful as an artist some day.

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and what drove you to choose art as a career?

When I was little, my family often asked me what I want to be in the future, and I replied - an artist! For birthday or Christmas, I always asked for paints, plasticine or pastels. I do not remember a moment in my life when art was not present. I took all free art classes in elementary and high school, I studied art history and got a master's degree in this field, so you can

say that art is my whole life. Even when I worked in places not related to art, I looked for it in museums. I don't think I chose my career as an artist, but art chose me.

How do you make sure you have time to create? Do you have a set time or build it into your calendar?

The creation itself takes the least time for me, my technique consists in creating human silhouettes using paper-mache, which takes quite a long time to dry and needs constant modifications to achieve a satisfactory shape. For someone who loves art from birth, there will always be time to create, there is no calendar for it. Another thing is promoting my own art, which takes up all my free time. This is not a typical job, I don't have specific hours for creating or promoting, I do it all the time regardless of the day or specific hours (except at night when I sleep).

What is your creative process like and how does art-making impact other parts of your life?

I create when I feel like I just have to. The artwork often appears in my head by itself and I have to materialize it. Before the painting is finished, I hang it in the most visible place in the apartment and watch it.

If I don't find anything that annoys me, then I paint it and let it dry (usually it takes about two or three weeks). In the meantime, I apply for competitions, write to galleries, look for exhibitions, answer questions just like now. I take pictures of finished artworks, edit them, record short videos to better expose it, describe each work, its technique, dimensions and meaning, because each painting touches on an important issue and I would like to convey this to the viewers. I also submit paintings for art auctions, send them to the galleries. Packaging a three-dimensional painting requires special care, so it takes a lot of time. People probably think that an artist only creates, but actually creating takes the least amount of time. In between all this, I deal with everyday things like everyone else - call my parents, read books, do laundry :)

What are some of your favorite sources of inspiration?

Definitely fashion photography. It is characterized by incredible attention to composition, specific arrangement of the human body and simply beauty. Some of my paintings were inspired by Pierre Debusschere photos to V Magazine. I also like the work of Vadim Stein or Amy Leibovitz. Also a classic of photography - Helmut Newton.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH GAYA LASTOVJAK

But inspiration can be found not only in visual materials, personally a lot of ideas come to me while reading. I've been enjoying lately the "The Divine Comedy" by Dante Alighieri and when I read the first part which is hell, all the characters that Dante met on the road, such detailed descriptions that I was amazed at how many ideas came to my mind. And they were not at all the same characters as in the book. My point is that if we allow ourselves to develop on various levels, we will watch, read and listen to a lot, feed our soul, then we will not need to look for inspiration, ideas will come to us. Of course, this takes commitment and time.

What is your creative process like and how has your style changed over the years?

Before white artworks I used to paint realistically, dealt with analog photography, sculpture in clay and metal. At some point I didn't know what to focus on, so I combined painting with sculpture, and photography became my inspiration.

When in 2007 I created my first three-dimensional painting, I knew that my search period was over and I found my own style that combines all the areas I love. Since then, I have been creating white convex paintings in the style of symbolic figurative art. I haven't changed my style, but I've evolved it.

I improved the technique, added more elements such as rope, metal mesh and recently puzzles and hair. I reinforced their message with specific body positions and gestures. Now I can confidently say that I am happy with how my art is developing and bigger projects are ahead of me.

How do you choose the subject of your painting and what is your creative process like?

Sometimes an idea comes to my mind and I just have to implement it, but I often raise issues related to the current situation in the world or social problems. Thanks to my art, I criticize bad human behavior but glorify good human qualities. It is not a moralistic art, because people are characterized by duality (they have both good and evil personality traits), but it is to draw the viewer's attention to certain behaviors, to induce contemplation and can initiate change.

Can you talk about any other current or upcoming projects?

I can boast that this year I will take part in the Art Biennale in Florence, which will take place in the fall. This is a special event for me, because my work will be among great artists, which I have always dreamed of.

Anything else you'd like to mention that I didn't ask?

I wanted to ask art lovers and collectors who buy art not to ask artists for discounts. Artists work as hard as any other profession. When going to a restaurant, we do not ask the cook for a discount on the dish. I would like people to start appreciating the work of artists and stop seeing them as crazy dreamers, but as normal working people.



FEBRUARY 2023

FEATURED ARTIST
GISELE CRIPER



www.instagram.com/giselecriper

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