

Ekaterina Poedinchikova

ARTIST

I am a graduate from the Nizhniy Tagil Professional Pedagogical Academy, a major in painting and graphics. According to education, I am an art teacher. I agree with Andy Warhol's opinion, he said that artist is a person, who creates something, that people don't need to live happily, but for some reason, they think that they should give it to people. There is a moment of responsibility in what I am doing. I am driven by the desire to share, to create something, to attract attention to a question, a problem, to the beauty. Perhaps, there is a certain desire of fame, profit, I won't be ashamed of that. In order to speak about positioning, the self-esteem should be risen first. I think it is not only my problem, in Russia there are a lot of talented people, but they are not ready to speak up. I am among them. It is difficult to judge yourself, it is better to have the judgment done by professionals. I like one of the stories of Bukowski, where he speaks about artists, that they will believe in their talent no matter how successful they are, because we can always speak about Mozart and Van Gough, who did not live to see their fame, and they were geniuses. And for each mozart and van gough there's a thousand of dull idiots and only the strongest ones have enough courage to stop doing art if they realize that they are not successful. Being a typical painter, I hope that maybe somebody will need what I am doing, and it will become a discovery for him.

ARTWORK

I think an artwork... It must irritate, either in the positive sense or negative, but it cannot leave you indifferent. Indifference means death. Some of its elements are similar to advertising: to attract attention, draw the interest, the desire. To bring up universal human values, or to attract attention to something negative. There should be a contrast, a conflict, an attraction of attention. Right now I am working on a project, on an exhibition, dedicated to Bazhov's tales. Bazhov is our author from the Urals, he partially documented the beginning of industrial era in Urals. But I am interested in a different aspect of his works. I like female images in his stories, the women who can be met in this area. Bazhov wrote fairytales, positioned as children's literature. It was done so in the Soviet Union. However, in reality they are rather gloomy. The main plot is based on test for a main character. They are usually men, unmarried, very talented, with highly developed universal human values. There are mystical creatures that can be associated with pagan creatures, there are turnskins. They either punish or praise the protagonist. One of the main characters is the Mistress of the Copper Mountain. She turns into a lizard, takes the talented men with her, and either punishes or praises them. She is a dangerous and attractive character at the same time. In my works I tell about her image, her feminine power and sexuality. If we talk exactly about these two works, I can say, that this is a traditional Russian headwear, called "kokoshnik". In general, in this series there is a triangular form present, which is associated with a mountain for me. It is a symbol of a mountain. In pagan cultures there was a goddess of earth, Makosh, one of the most powerful ones. She was also pictured as a triangle with one of the angles up. In my works it symbolizes a mountain, where all the treasures are hidden, the power of this woman. She takes the most talented, the best guys with her. Those who managed to escape were cursed for the rest of the life and had to return back to the mountains. That is why here the man is pictured inside of kokoshnik, because he is captivated. Here, in these pictures, the elements in the headpiece are elements from the old factories: blast furnaces. They are adapted, but I wanted to show the contents of the mountains, their inner treasures, like precious stones in a headpiece of a woman. And through that he strength, the power.

PRODUCTION

Sometimes it is a big idea, like the one I work on now, a series of artworks.

Sometimes it's an impulse and I draw from nature. In this case, an impulse was a book, fairy tales that I read being a child and accidentally came across lately. I was inspired by the bright images. I thought that I can take a different look at them and share with someone what I think, what seems beautiful to me. This series is different from what I did before. There is more academic strictness in it, more anatomical preciseness. For these works I used live sketches. I placed a model and drew from nature. Sometimes I used pictures. But usually I understand what I will get at the end, how will it be in color, how will it look compositionally. Of course, there are some uncontrollable moments that depend upon the material: the paint dripping on the canvas, how it fits together. But in general, I have in mind the realization of the composition. Except for the wooden frame, I do everything by myself. I pull the canvas, treat it with glue, lay ground, even for the big works. I might be small, but I'm tough. Then I have a layer of acrylic painting, or I use special pastes for texture: I mix them with sand, other materials to get places with texture. Then there is a stage of glazing. I paint fast, but I need time for the layer to dry. Sometimes it takes several days, sometimes – a week or two. It is hard to say how much time exactly it takes to paint a picture. I would say generally a month or two. I usually work on several pieces at the same time. Especially if they are done in one stream, to show them in the same color, same technique. It is easier like that. This way they look more complete. I have never had a problem, that I didn't like my painting. If I didn't like something, I would leave it aside, have a walk and paint it over again. Everything is simple.

MATERIAL

What do I need to create the things I do Speaking materially: paint, canvas. Everything is traditional. Sometimes I use construction materials for the first layers: texture pastes, glues, aqueous paints, sand, oil paint. Speaking about preparatory process, sometimes I take pictures, sometimes I draw sketches, sometimes I need a model. In this case I needed photos and people pose for me. I need good music it makes my mood better or gives me an impulse. Here I listened to gloomy music. I like when people come to visit me. I always have get-togethers here, a lot of people come around. I am one of those painters, who do not like to stay alone. It's been like this since I studied in academy. There were always get-togethers, everybody painted together. That is why you can come any time you want.

MEDIUM

It is all about feelings, perhaps. I cannot live without doing it. If I am not painting, I have a feeling that I lived a day in vain. I tried other occupations, but this is something that I feel myself powerful in. I want to share the beauty that I see, or the horror. Maybe feel my uniqueness this way, express myself. I tried to do photography, computer things, like Photoshop, but it means depending from technical sources and do not give the feeling of freedom. Here I do feel freedom in materials. I like the way it feels. I like the smell. I am the person of the process. I like the process of creation itself. It happened so. I studied to do this, not to make movies. Everyone should do what they are supposed to: the movie maker should make movies, the painters paint, the cooks – cook. Then everything will go well.

PROCESS

The process starts with the idea. I am not good at thinking with abstract notions. I guess the process does not finish when I stop working. It finishes by an exhibition or when it finds the feedback sometime later, the story continues. Sometimes working on a series there is such feeling, that you want to come back to the earlier works and change them. But usually there is a single idea that dominates on everything therefore I rarely make dramatic changes. Usually it is transmitted with a common coloring, the same tone. These latest works are more free, more expressive. They are different from the previous ones, that are drier, more academic. I want to leave it like this at the moment, because it is the reflection of my thought. I decided so some time ago for some reason and if I start changing everything, the work will become different, will have a different energy. What other factors can be there? My roof is leaking, and it influences the process great, for sure. It takes a longer time for the works to dry. Sometimes it is cold in here.

PRESENTATION

Sometimes I am invited to collective exhibitions. Sometimes I have personal exhibitions. Now there will be a program at the biennale, the space itself is important, the light. Of course, I want it to help to share the idea. I have negative experience as well. The painter cannot always decide about the exhibition and exposition. Speaking about the works that I am working on, I see it in a room with low ceiling, in order to provoke the associations with the entrance to a cave. A limited space with dull lighting. Not big. It concerns only this exposition. But generally speaking there are a lot of beautiful places, so it all depends on the theme, the language, the style you work in. I am ready to share with everyone. Perhaps, I am not the one to decide, who will be the audience. Someone will like it, someone won't. Of course, I want as many people as possible to see my paintings, and I want to paint as many beautiful paintings as possible. Because of the theme of the present work, I want it to be noticed by the people, who are from here, want the people to be somewhat proud that they live in such an interesting place, where such interesting literary works are created.

INTENTION

I just hope, that what I am doing will be interesting for someone and will communicate something to them. It is somewhat amusing: you cannot live without doing it, but an artist also has a mission, social responsibility for what he says, why does he do so. It is the pleasure that you get from the process. The desire to share, to attract attention to something, to interest in something, to show something beautiful or something horrible. To feel the uniqueness, to earn money, after all, since it is a professional activity. The desire of fame, of some feedback. A little bit of everything. I cannot point out just one thing. I am a human being after all. I think that art does have a function. It is the top of Maslow's pyramid, being the highest necessity of a person. Sometimes I think that one can live happily without it. People that I know, my grandmother, for example, can survive perfectly well without it, by means of other forms, such as television. She doesn't feel bad about it. But it is commonly believed that a painter has the function to say something, to attract attention to a topic, be honest, to investigate, to discover something.

METHOD

I can only say that I take a brush and move it over the canvas. Some things turn out well, some things – not, it is up to you to decide. I don't know. To be honest, it is all easy. It is great to be an artist. You can do silly things and people will forgive you. You can be a

drug addict and say awkward things, but people will still pay attention to you. It's fun and that's it. Being happy and enjoying whatever you are doing is a common value for all the mankind, not calculate your business strategy. Just love whatever you are doing. That's the way we are, simple Russian guys.

ART

Art is something that attracts attention, that makes you think about a certain problem, awakes certain emotions in you, purposefully or indirectly. Something that doesn't leave you indifferent. Anything can be art, cooking food, sewing clothes, making furniture, architecture, etc. A lot of things. One time I came to a local accountant to pay the rent, and I saw how she types on the keyboard. It was so beautiful, that I thought that the whole world should see that. Sometimes having certain skills is art. But the idea is not important for skills. When you see art you realize, that your life is never going to be the same.

Bio

* 1985 in Kamensk-Uralsky. She is a graduate of the Art and Graphics Department of the Nizhniy Tagil Pedagogical Academy. She was participant in several international group exhibitions, as well as various contests and festivals. Ekaterina also has had a number of solo shows. Her artworks can be found in various corporate and private collections, and in Yekaterinburg State gallery of contemporary art.

Credits

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