

Serhiy Savchenko was born in Lviv in Ukraine in 1972. He graduated already in 1991 from the Art School in the same town where he was born. Ever since he has got an almost “flying” career both in his homeland, but mostly all over Europe and in Canada as well.

He is carrying with him a great legacy from the former Russian and Ukrainian art from the old beautiful icons to the vanguardian period, which showed a fantastic sparkling choice of colours and a composition most different from the western sense of form apart from the German expressionists. Savchenko revives that spirit which always has been characteristic for the East European art – which has never given credit to the smallminded bourgeoisie, on the contrary the temperament was expressed violently through the colours and forms mixed with a certain amount of madness and cheerfulness. In the middle of this mixture you can find the erotic together with the famous beautiful melancholic poetry wellknown from Russian and Ukrainian literature and music in the art of Savchenko.

When you look upon Savchenko’s art you seem to notice a lot of colours, you look at the picture for a moment then you pass by, you return, you look upon it once more, you become part of its history, you are beginning to like it – indeed you are enjoying the wonderfully thrown ladies either in a chair or on a bed deeply provocative, but at the same time so innocent and yes! sometimes even motherly. But between the provocatives you will find very elegant women with the same air around them as the women of Modigliani’s – the Italian painter - and just here in Savchenko’s womenpaintings you will find the tradition back to the severe Ukrainian Godmother icons.

Savchenko’s use of the colours is violent and courageous he is contrasting his colours far out to the very limit of beauty and then other times he uses very gentle colours reminding of the famous “white nights”. His structure on the canvas is mostly a very smooth stroke of the spatula side by side with a very thick impasto which gives a magnificent effect of a relief and in this mixture of technics he scrapes and draws with the stump end of the brush or he is using very thin contours of black or white around the figures. With these lines he is succeeding in complete his artwork with this specific finality he thought of and wanted to – but it might not be the one the viewer experiences! And precise therefore his art is just as lively as his cats with sabelteeth. Savchenko is a fabulist in a very expressive way: Both his cat and his art bites and get hold on you!

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