

Serhiy Savchenko: the catcher and master of colours

Have you ever wondered what colour is the night? Is it black? Is it just black? At midnight and about five in the morning, when the moon is full or young, in a metropolis or in the wilds of a dense forest – it is different, is it not? Every night, its every moment has its own unique colour. And what colour is your favourite music? And your feelings? What colour is your fear? Impatience? Desire? Trepidation? Every moment of life is filled with specific colours which anyone can try to discern; however, not everyone is able to capture it. It is quite a different story with Serhiy Savchenko – the catcher and master of colours.

Right off the bat, we should refrain from clumsy attempts to analyze and interpret the painting of Serhiy Savchenko, as his painting does not call for interpretation. He will speak to you himself, and it could result in a very exciting dialogue at a sensually intuitive level.

It is painting of a colour. A colour that one wants to eat, drink, breathe – blend with it in every way possible, melt in it or dissolve it in oneself. Having breathed in this painting, one wants not to breathe, not to blink, just not to overlook something elusive and more important. That is how a dialogue between you and the works of Serhiy Savchenko starts.

Art can be seen in every single thing, even in how a person takes a breath, in the movements of his fingers, in where he puts the emphasis in a sentence. Savchenko is not occupied with creativity – creativity is his life. He is creativity himself. And his painting is just a bit of his creativity that can and should be transferred to canvas.

Have a look at the still lifes of Serhiy Savchenko. They are a good example of how colour planes compete with shape and eventually gain a victory over it, leaving only a few strokes and slightly uneven lines. That is why, still lifes display a unique "system of things" of Serhiy Savchenko, where he is the first person to give each thing a name. Moreover, it creates the image of the thing because things exist separately from their images. Recall Van Gogh's chairs – it is a series of images of chairs. Similarly, Savchenko creates unique images of objects, places emphasis on the details, the minutiae of the details...

Look at the series of his female "nudes:" they are as outspoken as the artist himself. At first, they may seem vulgar, rude, sometimes even perverse. Yet, this perception lasts only until you get to know their author. He is often asked why so much of his attention is devoted to the female figure; in one of the interviews, he replied, "But why not? If I drew animals without skin or something extraordinary, it would be weird, and I would understand why it posed this question. Choice of a female figure as an object of art seems to me something ordinary and organic, which should not bring up any questions. "

Look at his portraits and self-portraits. They are extremely honest, frank, devoid of poetry and romance, and instead full of psychology and light irony bordering on self-irony. Portraits created by Serhiy Savchenko resemble a smile with the descended mouth corners.

Finally, have a talk with Serhiy Savchenko. After a few minutes of face-to-face contact in an informal atmosphere you might get confused by his sensual frankness and whimsical fantasy. And his powers of observation and insight will make you feel helpless and nearly naked. Do not even endeavour to prevaricate or pretend to be someone you are not – it is futile, as you will just feel uneasy when Savchenko "gets to the bottom of you." Shortly after, you will realize that there is no need to get anyone's defence mechanisms triggered. You will understand that candour is not only the artist's way of thinking, but also a very valuable trait nowhere to be found. However do not expect Serhiy Savchenko to open up his soul to you. With all of his candour, his core will be left behind the scenes.

Recently, during one of the most productive periods of his creativity, Savchenko has experimented with materials, created installations, worked with photography, taken a shot at multi-media directions of art. However, painting still remains his main passion.

Yuliia Kaminska, art critic