

VOLOSHYN GALLERY

Voloshyn Gallery at Art Brussels 2023

April 20th - 23rd, 2023

Address: Brussels Expo | Halls 5 & 6

Booth: 6B-32



Maria Sulymenko, Untitled, 2023. Courtesy the artist and Voloshyn Gallery

Voloshyn Gallery proudly presents the project of Lesia Khomenko and Maria Sulymenko at Art Brussels.

The practice of both artists focuses on the study of deconstruction and chaos and their manifestations, turning it into a means of artistic expression. In her practice, Lesia Khomenko constantly rethinks the role of painting as a media and academic art education, using the methods of deconstruction of the figurative image as a tool. Deconstruction in the practice of Lesia Khomenko involves not only working with visual images, but also with all the components of the picture - its material carriers. Thus, in her new series, thanks to the use of synthetic canvas, biflex and synthetic acrylic paints, the author achieves a new maximum elasticity of the canvas. This allows the artist to turn one of her least favorite activities – stretching the canvas on the stretcher – into the main meaning-making part of the work, because it is the stretching of the canvas that becomes a tool for the deformation of the figures depicted in the paintings. In addition, the stretcher itself, as a rule, remains an invisible, marginal part of the picture. It is often subject to replacement, or stretching occurs without the participation of the author. The project draws the viewer's attention to the routine, technical process of creating and designing a picture, which turns into a self-sufficient author's gesture that ultimately defines the image.

Lesia Khomenko's painting goes beyond traditional understanding and acquires the character of painting as an object. Her works interact and transform space, while simultaneously entering the viewer's physical field, involving the latter in active communication.

"Modern painting has significantly transformed from the classical idea of painting. So I abandon social realism and choose to work with biflex material, which allows me to draw a figure and then warp and distort it as I stretch. This allows me to turn one of my favorite processes of mounting the canvas on the frame into a major sense-making piece, as it becomes a tool for deforming the depicted figures. In my work with painting, I have two parallel strategies: painting as an object and figurative representation. A picture as an object is always related to the space where it appears: the object can yield to the space, or vice versa, "collect" it together to form it in a new way. The figurative paintings I create are always subject to deconstruction." – Lesia Khomenko

Maria Sulymenko's works enter into dialogue with Khomenko's works. Maria, in contrast to Lesia Khomenko, relays and constructs chaos in an orderly existence. Sulymenko's watercolors are imbued with existentialism in the expression of abstract concepts and an absurdist atmosphere. Landscapes are almost uninhabited. Nameless figures appear in them mostly alone, sometimes in groups of two or three. They are not characters as such, but simply creatures. Their environment refers more to the subconscious than to the usual reality.

"Every day reality confronts us, forcing people to interact with people, things with things and vice versa. This kind of interdependent interaction happens every day, and in this semi-automatic mutual influence there is some mystery, something not fully resolved, something that cannot be finally understood once and for all. No matter how confident and unique the "people in suits" feel, meeting the real world always brings an element of chaos to their orderly existence, because life is not just multifaceted: sometimes it is awkward, funny and funny. No matter how smooth reality may seem, it always goes beyond the picture of the world invented by "people in suits" driven by the desire to control and contain everything around them. - Maria Sulymenko

About Lesia Khomenko

Lesia Khomenko is one of the most notable young artists of her generation. She has been showing her work continuously for almost two decades, locally and abroad, and her work forms part of public and private collections. Lesia Khomenko has created a vibrant international career over the last 15 years while influencing and supporting many Ukrainian artists. Since 2004 – a member of the R.E.P. group. Co-founder of a curatorial union HUDRADA, a self-educational community, based on interdisciplinary cooperation. The artist has shown dramatically in the PinchukArtCentre Prize (2009, 2011, 2013), the nationwide prize in contemporary art for young Ukrainian artists up to 35. Currently, lives and works in Miami, US.

About Maria Sulymenko

Maria Sulymenko (1981, Kyiv, Ukraine) was born in a family of artists. After graduating from the Academy of Fine Arts in Stuttgart (Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Stuttgart), she continued her studies at the Hessen State University of Art and Design in Offenbach am Main (Hochschule für Gestaltung). Her recent group exhibitions include *Shifting, Glances* (Simone Subal Gallery, NYC, US, 2022), *Is it time, yet?* (Georg Kargl Fine Arts, Vienna, Austria, 2022), *She Asked, I Followed. Her Name Is After* (Fredric Snitzer Gallery & Voloshyn Gallery, Miami, FL, US, 2022), *The Memory on Her Face: Part I and II* (Voloshyn Gallery, Miami, FL, US, 2022) *And i trust You* (Miettinen Collection, Berlin, 2022) and the solo exhibition *The Glass World of People and Things...* (Voloshyn Gallery, Kyiv, Ukraine, 2017).

About Voloshyn Gallery

Established in October 2016 by Max and Julia Voloshyn, **Voloshyn Gallery** specializes in contemporary art. It exhibits a broad range of works in a variety of media, hosting solo and group exhibitions and taking part in leading contemporary art fairs. Over the course of the last two years, the gallery has participated in *The Armory Show*, *Art Cologne*, *Enter Art Fair*, *Liste Basel*, *viennacontemporary*, *Dallas Art Fair*, *NADA Miami*, *Untitled Art*, *Art Athina*, *EXPO Chicago*, etc. Voloshyn Gallery is a member of the *New Art Dealers Alliance (NADA)*.

For all press inquiries, contact:
info@voloshyngallery.art