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Artist's European Impression

Olena Osadcha, a young woman artist of Kyiv, believes that every artist can apply brushstrokes that makes the subject come alive. However, this can be difficult to achieve without a breadth of experiences. To achieve this Olena is fond of travelling, but not as regular tourist. Her travelling experiences are echoed in her works. Pictorially I like deep tones. After all, it is the inner light, that inner torch, which is most important. It is that inner desire that gives in us the drive to create the light on the canvas," muses the artist, adding that "some pictures appear subconsciously, as though taking us by the hand and guiding us to places we have never visited." The display, scheduled for August 23-29, will feature Olena Osadcha's canvases that will guide onlookers to where we have never been, in Western Europe. You may find that the images are familiar to you in one way or another, but Olena Osadcha's Europe is a spiritual rather than geographical notion. It is this which has grasped the inner light from the greyiness of a daily routine, and in the process the artist has created a new and miraculous world seen in a fresh light. It is a very special view of Europe, Olena Osadcha's Europe. ■

Європа Олени Осадчої

Молода київська художниця Олена Осадча вважає, що художник думками-мазками примушує матерію оживати та рухатись. Але, напевно, сидючи на місці, матерію не зрушиш. Тож Олена любить подорожувати, але не як звичайний турист: дорожні враження відлунюють у її живописних творах. "У живописі я дотримуюсь правила глибоких тонів. Адже найважливіше - внутрішнє світло, смолоскип. Саме внутрішня боротьба породжує в нас прагнення створити світ на полотні, - міркує художниця. - Чимало картин з'являються несвідомо, наче вони беруть нас за руку й ведуть кудись, де ми ще не були". На виставці, що діятиме з 23 по 29 серпня в галереї "Грифон", картини Олени Осадчої поведуть нас, глядачів, туди, де ми ще не були, у Західну Європу. Не поспішайте заперечувати, що ви відвідували її не раз, а можливо, в тих краях і народилися. Але Європа Олени Осадчої - поняття не географічне, а скоріше, духовне. Це те, що вихопив із сірості сьогодення внутрішній погляд художниці, неначе заново створений і на диво свіжо побачений світ. Це дуже особистий погляд на Європу - Європу Олени Осадчої. ■

Cossack Mamai & Posterity

Kyiv's National Art Museum will host an "All-Ukraine Primitive Art Festival", June 18 - August 15. Ukraine's "primitive artists" achieved international acclaim in the twentieth century (e.g., Maria Prymachenko, Kateryna Bilokur), but this folk creative trend dates from a period ranging from between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries, when people decorated their homes with wall paintings portraying their favourite Ukrainian folk hero, Cossack Mamai who personified courage, folk humour, but above all freedom, a freedom Ukraine had been slowly losing over an historical period that had been especially trying for the nation. Pictures with Cossack Mamai are like icons,



having their own ethos. He is almost always portrayed sitting under a tree, playing his *kobza*, a crafty smile on his lips, with his Cossack *shablia* curved sword, powder-flask, and other military tools hanging from a nearby oak. His horse is grazing nearby, ready in full combat harness (in case the Cossack has to mount in answer to an emergency call). Nestling in the grass beside the Cossack is the traditional flask of the *okovyta* vodka and a sizeable *charka* goblet. Nearly every such picture displays a different Cossack, but every Mamai is normally staring at you, as though trying to convey a message. And the caption may read something like "You are looking at me, but you know nothing about me". Mamai captions in Old Ukrainian are of great uniqueness such as "If a Cossack is not drinking, he will be killing his lice or his enemies. Whichever he is never idle".

Project coordinators Valery Sakharuk and Natalia Vasykova are collecting Mamai images from a number of museum collections from all over Ukraine, for the first time since independence, adding them to the National Art Museum's already excellent collection. Oleksandr Babak, a contemporary Ukrainian artist, is expected to add an interesting component to the exposition, which will symbolise a cultural link between the centuries. ■

"Slavic Bazaar" to Present an Ode to Peace

Ode to Peace will be the topic of this year's international art festival Slavic Bazaar scheduled for mid-July in Vitebsk, Belarus... and this topic was not chosen at random, as this year's number-one event in Belarus will be the 60th anniversary of its liberation from Nazi occupation.

The first day of the festival will be marked by a parade on the streets of Vitebsk by the presidential and other military brass bands from Europe. A night concert entitled "Lovers Over the City" and featuring pop singers from Ukraine along with other guests will commemorate the city's 1030th anniversary. An international youth forum will be held on the closing day, with the representatives of youth non-profit organisations and noted politicians from various countries participating.