



East Meets West Gallery "The Sun for Two"

On the eve of the Easter holiday, East Meets West Gallery is pleased to invite you to a new exhibit of two bright and talented Moscow artists, Ekaterina Kudryavtseva and Petr Grigoriev.

The exhibit is not just a symbiosis of two soulful artists; it also highlights the two as individual creators, often performing in different styles, color, and genres. It is fascinating to watch them go through the creative process – sometimes coming surprisingly close to each other thematically, for example when they both work on a religious theme, and sometimes completely at odds in their stylistic development of the same genre, such as their urban landscapes.

This is particularly true in their Paris works: "Silent Leaves of Paris", "Paris. Landscapes", "Paris in the Newspapers" and "Dreams on the Seine". Kudryavtseva's Parisian cityscapes are meticulous and detailed pictures of a particular location. Her fractional brushwork and short strokes remind us of the Impressionists, and landscape itself remains earthy and real. By contrast, while Grigoriev's "Dreams on the Seine" also belongs to the urban landscape genre, the exact location and contours are only a guess at best; the main goal of "Dreams" is to convey an impressionistic sense of Paris' charms, and the artist achieves a light, ephemeral multicolor effect on his large canvases by using watercolor technique when working with acrylics. "The colors vibrate, flow and move; the surface of the canvas lives and changes depending on the angle of view." (M. Chegodaeva, article for the exhibit "30 Years Together", 2013).

A special place among the Parisian works is reserved for Kudryavtseva's "Silent Leaves of Paris", where the combination of decorative stained glass effects and her distinctive brushwork help to convey a flat, abstract and philosophical image of a leaf. Another unexpected discovery is her series of graphic works "Paris in the Newspapers". According to Kudryavtseva, her selection of newspapers as the main graphic material was motivated by a desire to emphasize the momentary and fleeting nature of her impressions during her travels, which the author wants to convey to the viewer. The excitement and inspiration of the artist are palpable in the rhythms of the city, the twinkling lights, the surface of the Seine, its bridges and urban buildings.

The landscapes from the series "Crimea" (2012), as well, open up new themes of light, sun, space, and flowing air. They convey a feeling of absolute happiness, looking at the rolling foothills of the Kara-Dag, playing with the rhythms of horizontal spaces of earth, water and sky, and silhouettes of light and darkness.

At the same time, Grigoriev brings an entirely different landscape from the Crimea ("Evpatoria", 2015), in the "Swan Sea". He also shows sunsets awash in pink light, but here we see only reflections of the sun, sea water and flickering blue-pink highlights on swan feathers; the enormous birds swim in the rays of the setting sun and disappear seemingly into nowhere. For Grigoriev, there is hardly a direct concept of landscape. The artist captures the moment when the background lighting turns the swans sparkling in various shades, first pink, then purple, then blue; depicted in the light watercolor technique using acrylic on canvas, they are very real and at the same time fantastically unreal.

Whether in Paris, Rostov, Crimea or at home in Zelenograd, a single sun shines on Petr Grigoriev and Ekaterina Kudryavtseva – but how different it can be to them!

We are pleased to invite you to “The Sun for Two” by Ekaterina Kudryavtseva and Petr Grigoriev at the Design Center ARTPLAY from April 7 to April 29, 2015. Daily from 12:00 to 22:00. Admission is free.

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