



Rostyslav Koterlin, Emblematal II, 2015, fragment, mixed media

Democracy and Luxury

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Rostyslav Koterlin

“...people cannot understand that what does not exist can influence on what exist», – once noted John Fowles.

How much do we know?

The reality is that all almost everyone tells a lie. Even being very sincere, everyone lies. The truth reveals itself much later, when it can reach and touch us. When it is a fait accompli.

Each of us have repeatedly heard about democracy as much as about the luxury. Both concepts refer to the field, which is impossible to cover entirely, that is, to the vitality, life. The life that flows, mimicries and hides.

Today “Democracy” is quite lullaby Greek word that includes any contents of any representatives of any country that belongs to the so-called “Western world”. How many people - so many democracies. For example, statements about the corruption of democracy are heard not only from the lips of dictators. You can often hear it in traditional democratic countries.

“Luxury” – is it object or action? Accumulation of valuables or free luxuriating in the freedom? Luxury of East and West, North and South, not subject to us luxury of Nature and Universe.

The luxury to have and the luxury of being. Mystics say, someone, who owns nothing, is eternal. If you want to limit yourself, seize on something to have it!

Democracy and luxury is always close, like Eros and Thanatos. Something that gives freedom to love, which can kill.

When an authoritarianism and luxury is close, it is decorated with jewellery alliance of Thanatos and Plutus or Mammon*.

Almost everyone knows that we live in not really democratic country. But when young people write on any surface “PTN PNKh” (ПТН ПНХ) or “Putin – khuyllo” (Путін хуйло), they enjoy and understand it. Submerging in truth, they realize that behind the Mezhyhirya and Kremlin fences is not a luxury, but a disease. It is the dark side of human desires. So skinflint that requires a separate “Message”.

A message to the skinflint oligarchs and thousands and thousands of cheapskates “in power” that take in their wallets public money of millions of citizens.

Can the cheapskate just say to yourself, “Stop! You have a lot, too much. So much that there is no you. Enough! Enough to have, just be.”

Can the cheapskate feel out by morning forest air his coded head with counters in the eyes? Can he forget about counting his bank accounts bending and looking for a long time at brown chump of forest land?

The cheapskate cannot, but he should be forced. “Forcing not to have, but to being” is main, not only post-Soviet problem. What can force them, even if the death of hundreds and thousands of soldiers have not changed this? Maydan and then “khuyllo” have pushed to it. This will definitely happen when there will be more of those who are in a rush to be and not to have.

The war is inside all of us. The one is winner who knows that what does not exist is close.

Rostyslav Koterlin

* The gods of ancient mythologies: Thanatos personifies death, Plutus – wealth, Mammon – wealth and lucre.

Rostyslav Koterlin was born in 1966. Lives and works in Ivano-Frankivsk.

Graduated from Kyiv National University of Taras Shevchenko, department of journalism (1998). Koterlin is a researcher and an analyst of processes of contemporary art; an author of essays and articles about artists of Ivano-Frankivsk. Since 1990s he's an organizer and a participant of almost all contemporary art programs and projects in the city. His mail-action “Year 2000 Has Come”, together with A.Zvizinski, was an indicative and a program event (1997). Since 1999 the artist is the Chief Editor of “Kinez Kinzem” almanac – Ukraine's only systematic periodical on contemporary visual art. As an almanac editor he became a grant holder of the Ministry of culture and cultural heritage of Poland in Center for Contemporary Art “Zamek Ujazdowski” (2005). Starting with 2009 Pavlo Gudimov's curator project “Miniart” the artist's works are annually exhibited in the art center's group exhibitions. Two personal exhibitions “In Honour” and “M – Psyche” took place in Ya Gallery in Kyiv in 2010 and 2011. In 2012 Koterlin's works were in the art center's most important group projects – “Figure Vivace” (as part of the French Spring Festival), “Warhol's Relatives. Contemporary art of Western Ukraine” (special project at ART MOSCOW 2012) and Neofolk project (visual art program of GOGOLFEST 2012). The same year the artist presented his personal project “Across Illusion”, and in 2013 – “Inessential Properties”, in Ya Gallery in Kyiv. As art critic Viktor Melnyk says the artist's paintings are “pictorial allegories-parables which can be objectively evaluated in the context of how the artist sees space and time”.