



Pavlo Makov, Touch #3, 2014, fragment, drawing (graphite, coloured pencil), multiple intaglio, acrylic, paper, 97x95 cm

Margin

03.06 - 29.06.15

Pavlo Makov

«...Ukraine is the country, which doesn't exist. The present time is a margin, Archipin's space between two different Ukraines. This time will not belong to the history, neither of the first nor the second Ukraines. So weak is their connection. Modern Ukraine is a break, volcano, which changes the basic geography», – Taras Prokhasko, One and the Same¹

Even at their first meeting Pavlo Makov and Taras Prokhasko intended to create a common book, which would consist of etchings and texts. The essential condition of its creation had to be the absence of any discussion of its content. The theme of gardens had to unify the content while the details create and develop a polylogue without unnecessary preliminary agreements. Nominally, the book is not created, but that does not mean its complete absence. According to Prokhasko, "a common project may even be in a form that we just know about it"².

The quotation from the last novel "One and the Same", which is used as an epigraph to this text, relates to the main themes of Pavlo Makov, in a strange way. From the look at Ukraine as a Utopia (the country, which doesn't exist) to an explanation of its fate by the geography [and plants] language. The first book meditation concerning the country that "reminds a double bag"³, according to the artist, is the most accurate text of his work.

"Margin" is the continuation and development of the plots that were started by the artist in the previous exhibitions. The chain launched by the exhibition "Blanket, City, Tower, Cross, Fate" (PinchukArtCentre, 2011) and continued by the exhibition "Paradiso Perduto" (National Art Museum of Ukraine, 2014) and new exhibition "Margin" (Ya Gallery, 2015) is a story that has begun as a sort of "ethnographic research" of surrounding people, who share common space with you, with their own vision of happiness for life on Earth. No matter what, this happiness is - a container or country house, - but in time "the country-idea, which dreamed of its paradise while surviving and defending"⁴, has found itself in a slightly different form. In a situation of excessive latency accumulation, unmanifested dreams and, at the same time, broken bonds of the "lost paradise".

Indeed, the skills to feel this margin are formed throughout life. We notice how the single earth is divided into zones by a dog. How the prohibitions work in one space, and are completely leveled in other. What place has a sacred status, and which one is separated by its historical value. But it turns out that combined artificial and natural discarded lines are mixed. The separation of spaces is worth nothing. It is not able to identify and distinguish itself. "All attributes of Christianity, as a system, are imbued with the rules of coexistence with the spirits"⁵, rules of spaces (and other rules) does not apply. Basic geography is abandoned and forgotten, as the lines do not actually pass through the settlements. The spaces are separated by the boundary, which, sometimes, have meaning, or by the boundary which crossing worth nothing.

The circle is closed: the boundary crossed Shastya village. We can see a new element in the works. It is constructions of concrete blocks, which take a role of punctuation in reading of maps.

At the same time, the "margin" is just a word understandable regardless of language, either in Ukrainian or in Russian.

The neglected spaces of the last series, geographic layouts that always tell the stories of people avoiding their actual presentation, in this new exhibition approach to the anthropomorphic imagery. The base of etching composition is a structure of fingerprint that is a synonym for the human face, a guarantor of personal interest that the garden will grow. "Margin" is a project about responsibility. It is about the next step that should be taken today. The touch is a form in a moment before seen a plan of the labyrinth, through which we go in our attempts to identify the structure of the whole human being.

So, what the way we pass from Utopia to the Margin? What is the time, when the place, which doesn't exist, has to define its boundaries?

Borys Filonenko

1. Prokhasko Taras. One and the Same. – Chernovtsy: Knygy – XXI, Meridian Czernowitz, 2013. – P.20

2. NO self-expression as a way to success Taras Prokhasko and Pavlo Makov. – Galician correspondent. – Electronic resource: <http://gk-press.if.ua/node/18183>

3-5. Prokhasko Taras. One and the Same. – Chernovtsy: Knygy – XXI, Meridian Czernowitz, 2013. – P.5, P.21, P.16

Pavlo Makov was born in 1958 in St. Petersburg. Lives and works in Kharkiv.

In 1979, he graduated from Crimean Art College named after N. Samokish (Simferopol), in 1978 – Academy of Fine Arts (St. Petersburg), in 1984– Kharkiv Art and Industrial Institute (Graphic Department).

Since 1988, he is a member of the Artists' Union of Ukraine, since 1994 – member of the Royal Society of Painters-Printmakers of the Great Britain. And since 2006, Pavlo Makov is a correspondent member of the Ukrainian Art Academy.

Participant and winner of many graphics exhibitions, among which Biennale of Graphic Art (Kaliningrad, Russia, 1990, 1992 and 1998), VI International Biennale of Print and Drawing (Taipei, 1993), "Osaka Triennale 94" (Osaka, Japan, 1994), National Triennale of Print (Kiev, 1997), International Triennale of Print (Prague, 1998) etc. In 2009, Pavlo Makov received a silver medal of Ukrainian Art Academy. He is an author and participant of many projects in Ukraine and abroad. His works are in collections of museums in Ukraine, Russia, Hungary, Italy, Spain, UK, USA and other countries.

The first project of the author book "The Author's books, maps, miniatures" of Pavlo Makov in the Art Center Ya Gallery I 2007 was the second project of the first exhibition space of Ya Gallery on the Voloska street. Next year the project "Garden", organized by the Art Center, was presented in Lviv "Dziga", and "Gardens and Parks of Eastern Ukraine and the Crimea" – in the Ya Gallery in Kyiv. In 2009, the fourth personal project in cooperation with Ya Gallery called "The Alley: The Story of One Walk" was held. Since then, Pavlo Makov is actively involved in such projects curated by Pavlo Gudimov together with Lydiya Lykhach, like "Folk is topical. Still life", "Folk is topical. Landscape" (Kyiv, 2010), and "New Old Masters" (Dnipropetrovsk, Lviv, 2011), "Earth" (Cherkasy, 2011). In 2012 in the Art Centre Ya Gallery Pavlo Makov presented his personal project "Page-A-Day Diary" (Kyiv). And next year he presented another project called "Set" in HudPromo (Odessa, 2013). In 2014, his personal project PARADISO PERDUTO was presented in the NAMU (Kyiv), he participated in the group projects "In our paradise" curated by Galyna Sklyarenko and Valeriy Sakharuk in the Ya Gallery (Dnepropetrovsk, 2014). And in 2015, he will participate in the collective exhibition "Border Line. Ukrainian Art 1985—2004" in the PinchukArtCentre.