

Jasna Klara Kozar

Avatar

16 September–1 October 2016

KiBela, space for art

MMC KIBLA, Maribor



Jasna Klara Kozar is one of very few women, who only get through life by being an artist. She lives art, breathes art, and it is literally her bread and butter. There is no doubt we can rely on years of her experience, which has given her so much – not only in terms of the artistic know-how, which she perfected in India, and later in Paris and other places, but also in terms of sheer artistic and existentialist sophistication that she possesses.

Jasna Kozar is an artist who constantly explores artistic trends, and experiments with her distinctly comprehensive savoir-faire as a painter. Her body of work is diverse, which goes hand in hand with her temperament. Yet the artistic power of her works is noticeable precisely in the unpretentious, but constant features, recognized most vividly in her color palette, which has left a mark on her during the eight-year period she spent in India.

The bold colors used as building blocks in her compositions are definitely a reflection of Fauvism: powerful contrasts within a warm-cool primary or secondary color scheme, which were proven to have an effect on a person's psychological state of mind. Red symbolizes energy and power; it is an association to life, love, passion, sex, animal aggression, anger, and also fear. Yellow is the color of youth and optimism, or hypocrisy in its antipode, while orange is distinctly adrenaline and eclectic. Purple, which is markedly present in the artist's opus, is the color of luxury, it emanates excellence and elegance. Black, though not a color, speaks to exclusive omnipresence (or omniabsence) of generic colors.

Complementary to Jasna Kozar's color scale is her character. All genuine artists are autobiographers; in this respect, Jasna is undoubtedly an authentic artistic soul, as her paintings are a literal and consistent reflection of her personality, which results in a great diversity of her painting motifs, and a certain formally indefinable recurring personal style.

Jasna Klara Kozar is an avatar. And it is not something she learnt from James Cameron.

In Sanskrit, avatar means a reincarnating soul, which, after a certain rest period in modern art, where the esoteric had been exhausted beyond recognition, poses a new challenge for contemporary painting, mainly in terms of allowing a certain level of tactile and creative freedom, where taboos have no standing anymore.

An avatar is also the graphic image of a computer user, representing their "alter-ego", or second self, living a virtual life inside a virtual world. "We live in different worlds on the same planet," says Jasna. The world of avatars, virtual users of commercially inspired social networks, is becoming equivalent to reality. The reincarnation of humans to microchips has begun.

On this occasion, Jasna is presented by figure painting and portraits demonstrating great skill and expressiveness. Another one of her popular motifs is the landscape, which she creates by means of simultaneous contrasts, obviously declaring an affection for the color of harmony, which is green. Her landscapes, too, are subject to reincarnation – they traverse between impression and expression, depicting on one hand the artist's momentary conviction, and emitting on the other a passion for the Other, the Beyond, by means of aggressive, ablaze colors.

Jasna uses colors as sensual perceptions. She uses them to express herself, and to call attention not only to our state of mind, but also to the complementarity of the human soul and our sublime connection to the cosmos. This is why her color scale is a rainbow one – another explication of a certain era, of her flower-power period.

So then, what is Jasna Kozar's avatar like in terms of traditional painting media? As the artist herself states, it is about "the recycling of an Indian experience, which lasted altogether over a temporal period of eight years". Avatar is a series of painting objects, i. e. paintings in the form of light boxes. Adopting a typical Hindu understanding of the reincarnation of gods, Jasna Kozar portrays women as their own avatars, which embody the idea of the individual person being portrayed, either as a hysterical or miserably dis-formed/dislocated/dystrophic soul, or as lucidly illuminated, spiritualized and accepting their proper fate.

Tonight's art show, therefore, is above all an attempt at a meditative mind shift, but it is also about playing with the ideal of re-birth. Still, the question remains, does the re-birth occur as "returning of the same", or does it merely trip over something we brazenly call karma?

Nina Jeza, Artists&Poor's

Jasna Klara Kozar graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana, under Gabrijel Stupica and Jože Brumen, and later specialized in painting under Gabrijel Stupica and Jože Ciuha (1977). She obtained her MA degree from the International Institute of Design in Ahmedabad, India (1979) and attended additional studies at the Cite Internationale des Arts in Paris. Having formally retired as a self-employed person in culture, she continues to exhibit home and abroad. She lives and works in Maribor, where she runs her own 3X Gallery in Lent.

The exhibition will be showing until 1 October 2016.

Opening 16 September 2016, at 8 p. m.

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KiBela, space for art, is open on weekdays between 9am and 10pm and Saturdays between 4pm and 10pm (closed on Sundays)