

Gala Čaki

THE LANDSCAPE OF THE INNER SELF

21 March–26 April 2025

MMC KIBLA/KiBela

Explosions of emotion in the sea of images

Gala Čaki comes from Novi Sad in Vojvodina, which with its multiethnicity is the most multicultural city in Serbia. Her paintings draw on the tradition of the urban environment and reflect it on the global level of the intimate feelings of an individual in a metropolis. Figures with hinted features, veiled and unrecognizable, appear in an abstract environment as images of what we have experienced in our time. Although they may be familiar, they convey a strong sense of the unknown and it is uncertain whether we have ever actually encountered them. But they must have appeared in some form, perhaps as mere apparitions, somewhere between the unconscious and the conscious, the actual, the realized, between personal feelings and experiences that belong only to us and remain unknown to others. But in Gala Čaki's artworks, they are visually transformed into the universal.

Somewhere on the city streets which force people into interpersonal relationships, and through a discerning attitude towards the world around us, our inner world emerges, with which we construct relationships between ourselves and others which are the basis of society and the social. Just as communication is a medium for bridging distances on a personal and group level and between meanings, art is a universal "form" of traversing between outer and inner spaces – at first opaque and enigmatic, they then take on a recognizable form which we can call "emotional intelligence" and which is an inevitable result of human progress, the very essence of (human) being.

Her works are bursting with energy, as if the artist is pouring her inner self onto the canvases that radiate the artist's creative expression. She channels intense personal emotions into painting with decisive yet refined and gentle brushstrokes, which she executes so vehemently that her approach could also be described as ambient performance or action painting.

The brushstrokes applied to the canvas with oil paints create expressive drawings of the human torso in various positions, from fetal to open, from introverted to excessive, from calm to agitated, beginning with a whisper and ending in a kind of painterly scream. Other paintings are calm and show dreamy, pensive and somber faces that reveal themselves to us through vague forms or whose presence is only hinted at through contours, outlines and strokes, radiating their moods with incredible intensity in stormy inner processes and heartfelt reactions. As if in distress, they contract and stretch, stand or fall, crawl or rush somewhere into the unknown, but they all radiate a distinct inner energy, bursting and bubbling or stoically pensive, their gaze directed either somewhere outwards or deeply inwards, to where the visual details or the painterly compositions and constellations point.

Precisely drawn and focused lines, which in places run like croquis across the picture plane,

Gala Čaki
THE LANDSCAPE OF THE INNER SELF
21 March–26 April 2025

MMC KIBLA/KiBela, Ulica kneza Koclja 9, Maribor
Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

appear like rivers overflowing in explosive colors, sometimes monochrome, but not calm, for they seem like multicolored oceans in which Gala's intense emotions erupt like geysers, spraying colors to merge in different compositions and images. This can be dancing, walking or standing and sitting, even lying down and imagining something distant. Meditation and introspection as a way to capture outside influences, an emotional response to relationships that can be entirely personal or social or both at the same time, while artistic, creative impulses bubble out of them and lead the brushes to their haven to calm down when they are seen in the painted image.

This is Gala's "landscape of the inner self" where plains become valleys and mountains rise from rivers to stir our imagination and take us on a journey through the "inner self" with a wealth of experiences that break the dams that hold back all that we call sincerity, directness, ferocity, courage, emotion and of course knowledge and behavior and above all creativity and not destructiveness, with which the talking and writing heads fill their own hypocritical and pompous stable, trapped in the stench of sitting on their own pile of shit - intellectually, spiritually and emotionally, for the heart has long been lost to them ... Their landscapes are heartless, empty and subject only to their own manipulations, which they are convinced they must sell to others in order to remain in their positions.

It is sad to watch them, preferably without sound, because they have nothing (more) to say and only convince their own ego with their writing, with which they feed the empty heads of their audiences or believers.

Gala's landscape is extraordinary, rich in content, deep and high, so that it sometimes seems difficult to capture it on a two-dimensional surface, because it likes to leap away, approach us, caress us or slap us to make our hearts dance. Even if her gesture is gentle or rough, when our gaze dives into the image and merges with it, numerous corners are revealed to us where we have never been because we didn't even know about them, let alone dared to discover them or even enter them. Now they stand wide open and invite us in, so that the curves of our bodies dissolve into the seas of different dimensions and numerous iterations, so that we swim in the "primordial soup" of the beginning of life. She opens this landscape for us to be drawn into it and follow it without realizing that we are already deep in the landscape of our own selves and we realize that there is nothing to be afraid of there.

The reminiscences that overwhelm us can shake up the collective memory and awaken the individual unconscious that drives Gala's artistic reality, from the explosion to the eruption and from the source to the sea. The subtlety, fragility and introversion of Gala Čaki is simply transformed in her paintings into figurative abstractions that create images of people we have met, even if we have never met them, but they are present in us and we can still stumble upon them or they remain in that "in-between space" that creates the awareness of the individual and collective unconscious through art and does not leave us alone. After all, this is also one of the tasks of Gala and of course of art, the individual and the universal at the same time.

– Peter Tomaž Dobrila

BIOGRAPHY

Website



Gala Čaki was born on March 19, 1987 in Ečka, Serbia. She completed primary and secondary school in Zrenjanin, Serbia. In 2006, she enrolled at the Academy of Arts in Novi Sad, where she received her master's degree in painting and drawing in 2011. She continued her doctoral studies at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Belgrade, where she graduated in 2017. Since 2014, she has been a member of the international organization Art Link Us based in Ehime, Japan. Gala's artistic research focuses on fantastic painting and ambient performance of works of art. She is the founder of *Gala International Art Symposium* in Serbia, in which more than 30 major artists from all over the world have participated. Her works have been exhibited in China, Japan, Indonesia, Singapore, Russia, India, Qatar, Dubai, Germany, France, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Poland, Denmark, Hungary, Croatia, America, Canada and Mexico.