

Luka Uršič

I SEE LIGHTS

7 July–5 August 2023

MMC KIBLA/KiBela

Luka Uršič has been searching for a balance between visual art and music for twenty years. Everything he does is imbued with a search for the boundary between what we see and what we can only suspect. His art is always intimate at its core because he translates it into the world through his deepest experience of the creative process.

"If I knew how, I would create art with the power of the effects of psychedelics. But my art doesn't care about my desires. It demands total surrender from me, and when I feel I have mastered it, it shows me its infinity and forces me to gaze humbly into the inconceivable."

The exhibition will feature new canvases and "light drawings" that the artist creates by manipulating artificial light travelling through plexiglass. The impetus for the new works stems from a desire to use light as a direct painting medium and the subject matter stems from the fascination with the rich mythology of unknown flying objects.

"The theme of the unknown is reflected as an obsession with discovering new possibilities of interpreting reality and searching for images of a future in which the human being has already made contact with the existence of life in other dimensions. The bending of time and space is something that painting, music and the phenomenon of unknown occurrences in the sky have in common. The ability to see something that does not exist within our perception, that is not visible to our senses. Where there is an infinite void, there can also be an infinite saturation, and when images appear to me in the artistic process, I always wonder whether I've invented them or whether perhaps they have always existed and were just hiding behind the veil of everyday perception."

The duality of the material and the immaterial, the haptic and the optical, is transformed through Luka's work into a combination of the intimate and the cosmic, the sensation becomes an "object" in space, combining the tactile and the sensual, the emotional and the ethereal, the physical and the metaphysical. Just as everything on Earth and in the universe has various dimensions, which we usually imagine geometrically, objectively, it also has other, non-geometric and non-object dimensions, which we understand as properties and characteristics, radiation, waves, frequency. The same goes for everything that surrounds us and that we are. We radiate...

We are living things made of chemical elements and physical properties, light and electric charge. Objects are chemical elements in the solid state, liquids are chemical elements in the liquid state and gases are in the gaseous state. Their aggregate state is determined by the distances between the molecules: the closer they are, the more solid a matter is, and conversely, the further apart they are, the more intangible that matter is. To ether as the 5th element, which is the dimension of "our" universes alongside the other four – earth, water, air and fire.

curator: Peter Tomaž Dobrila
production: KID KIBLA
co-production: Skladišče 172
corrected words: Nina Vidrih

Luka Uršič would like to thank everyone who made his artworks possible.

Luka Uršič
I See Lights
7 July–5 August 2023

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

Light is electromagnetic radiation at different wavelengths or frequencies. The part of the spectrum, from about 380 nm to about 750 nm, that is detectable to the human eye is called visible light. In physics, the term light often refers to electromagnetic radiation of all wavelengths, whether visible or not. Light has five basic characteristics: intensity, frequency or wavelength, polarization, phase and orbital angular momentum. In electromagnetic waves, the electric and magnetic field strengths are always perpendicular to the direction of the propagation of light, so light is a transverse electromagnetic wave.

The deficiency of the wave description of light was revealed by measurements of the radiation spectrum of black bodies at the turn of the 19th century. The problem known as the ultraviolet catastrophe revealed the duality of light. This means that light has the characteristics of a wave, but also the characteristics of a particle. In the particle view, which is only possible using quantum mechanics, light is made up of small packets of energy (quanta of light) called photons.

The phenomena associated with light are usually considered in the context of three different theories, namely geometrical optics, wave optics and quantum optics. In geometrical optics, light is represented by light rays, which are used to describe the action of lenses and mirrors or the refraction and reflection of light. In wave optics, light is defined by electric and magnetic fields, which is particularly suitable for large wavelengths, such as radio waves. For visible light, this description is no longer completely valid and therefore quantum optics is required for some phenomena. The electromagnetic field, and hence light in quantum optics, consists of quanta of energy – photons, massless particles and carriers of electromagnetic interaction. Quantum optics – unlike wave optics – deals with all phenomena that show the duality of light (photoelectric phenomena, discrete spectra of gases, etc.).

The constant speed of light in a vacuum is 299,792.458 m/s, independent of its wavelength. It is also the maximum possible speed at which a particle can travel through space. However, the speed of light is not always the same, as it usually travels through different substances or media, such as air or water, and propagates at different speeds, but slower than in a vacuum. The passage of light from one medium to another is also the cause of refraction, which occurs when the speed of light changes as a result of passing between two differently dense substances.

In essence, art is “playing with light”, highlighting and shading, toning and tinting, passing between light and shadow. Vision uniquely provides information about the world as a sense that combines sensory perceptions of space in three or four dimensions. Among the artists known for their light works, we can mention Marcel Duchamp, Man Ray, Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, James Turrell, Olafur Eliasson, and in our country artists Uršula Berlot Pompe, Natalija R. Črnčec and Meta Grgurevič.

Playing with vision and human perception to create a holistic experience for the viewer, using the visual possibilities of artificial and natural light, or their manifestations, with light-sensitive materials, plexi and fluorescent colors and luminaires, specific wavelengths and intensities, shapes and sizes, in the newly created works by Luka Uršič, the phenomenon of light and its effects is simultaneously emphasized and incorporated into the overall exhibition layout, including the multidimensional installation I See Lights, in which individual elements, paintings, drawings, sculptures and installations are manifested either as vital components of the overall artwork or as individual artefacts. A stimulating immersive environment with an intervention into our perceptions, inviting us to indulge in a play of light and color.

– Peter Tomaž Dobrila

BIOGRAPHY

Luka Uršič is a painter and musician who was born on 30 August 1982 in Maribor. He is a professional graphic designer and a former student of the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana, where he majored in painting. He is a versatile artist who has done numerous independent projects in both visual and musical arts in his twenty-year artistic career. He has also collaborated and continues to collaborate with great names in the art scene both at home and abroad. In all his collaborations, he maintains and develops his unique artistic language.