

Marko Jakše

CLOSE ... CLOSER ... EVEN CLOSER

7 February–15 March 2025

MMC KIBLA/KiBela

In waves of catapulting visions and the visible, we penetrate the realms through the cracks. For those who have mastered the language of the heart, the hidden portals are quietly yet visibly opened. The spirit of the artist crosses centuries and reaches across time. He brings worlds together, underworlds and skies, seas and mountains, forests and plains, deserts and underwater places, membranes that linger under the arches or in hidden horns, extending into worlds other than the ones we know and see. The painterly breath of the white surface mysteriously breathes into the spirit of the palm, stimulating the hand and leading to the painterly gesture.

The magus and jinni of painting travels through space and time, bringing back images that carry a message from another place, in a language that is foreign to us, but close enough to us to make it ours here and now. From the subterranean terrors of the subconscious to the life-gifts of goodness and the celestial wonders, he is the true collector of the astonishing beauty and terror of the entire cycle of the splendor of life and the workings of the universe. He encapsulates and liberates with a great white sword, eternally placing and stacking it in an endless ascending spiral in all its glorious cycles, where we always meet at the crossroads of the star cracks that open our perspective and existence.

The exhibition gives as much space to the artifacts, architecture and protagonists as it does to the expansive views and creatures that populate the monumental luxury formats. In some places the gaze is easy to direct, in others it skips over, loses itself in the realm of painting, sometimes it discovers with delay and rapturously piles up new, never-before-seen structures that become visible when the eye blinks differently. Beauty is waiting to be discovered, created and experienced. The echo calls, the visions reverberate, the will directs. Perhaps the soul is eternal and in this life paints the visible and the invisible in a painterly blending and merging of reality and imaginary representations.

The motifs interweave animals and vegetation with medieval faces, cosmopolitan costume dimensions, fusions of objects, elemental earthly and surrealistic cities and places, timeless protagonists, creatures and beings. They must exist somewhere, in the realm of free imagination, if nowhere else.

The mysterious secret lives before our eyes. The secret we want to penetrate does not reveal itself. It is like a finished magical book whose language we cannot decipher or decode. We can see it, observe it, experience it, but no one knows exactly what the story is about. The mysterious secret, protected by the jinni himself and the painting, remains hidden. The titles serve as signposts to a certain extent, but the explosion of what lies before the eye, the beauty of the image, the silhouettes, the spatial dimensions and the magnificent views of landscapes, sceneries, cities, the visual perfection, the light and the unique color palette of the artist lull us into a state of enchantment. The stories within reach of hand and eye, however, remain delightfully hidden. Tactile, hidden stories delight the eye, the senses and the spirit. Let the

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painting speak, let the painting guide us, let the painting move us, shake us, speak to us, soothe us, silence us or linger with us.

Jakše's metaphysical worlds are characterized by painterly ingenuity, the dexterity of his own style, artistic straightforwardness, clever imagination, directness and boldness, the sheer size of the canvas diameters and the imaginative power of symbolic, fictional and narrative mysticism. They come through a perfected style and a characteristic way of painting, color contours and created spaces and places of an angelic surrealism.

So time passes in a state of infinity. The breakthrough is the structure. The paneling for the painterly application is there. The visual elements are designed with a very lyrical artistic sense. In them, life is called to life, to death or to eternity. The free spirit bears mysterious blossoms in which incredible, unprecedented or merciless realities are immersed. Joyful pictorial worlds make quantum leaps in the imagination and tell tales. Beings and places grow like mushrooms from a rich soil of the fantastic, where canvases are abundantly filled with life from bottom to top, from depth to surface, with subjects and objects that are breathtaking in their appearance, silhouette and design. The fluid boundaries between exterior and interior stand alongside the distinct opus, the central narrative of the mysterious paintings that are loud and full, whispering and quiet, full of figurative counterpoints, positions and gestures of the protagonists that lead us into the grandeur of the visible echoing of visibility. The paintings rustle and reverberate. His works immerse us in a pure visual opulence that reveals the mastery of the art of painting and the truly present and transcendent aura of the artworks.

He is the pictorial angel of walks and melodies, where earth and sky nestle with beauty. The enchantments of beauty that branch out require the perspective of an open mind and gaze. The paintings carry in their essence a free spirit that ranges from vulnerable and compassionate to gentle grace to the immense harshness and nonchalance of the grotesque and horrific. All this is combined with a spectrum of spectacular relationships and an uncompromising palette of human sensuality. Beauty and horror, miracles and evil deeds. The relentless cycle of light and darkness, duality and the earthly realm. Beauty and horror have special powers. They move people, speak to them, nourish them, but they also drown them at the same time. His poetics and visual style have another life. His painting bells ring a different song. They ring out in antiquity and in parallel worlds. They send a clear and penetrating message that invites, touches, withdraws, lingers, sings, observes, breathes, whispers, screams, devours, watches or comes to life in stench and blood or loves and satisfies in the beauty of love with pure white.

Beauty created out of nothing. Wrapped in the delight of the paintings and floating gazes, the eye sinks, flies, sharpens its focus or is released at the horizon line into the distant landscape, where it surges contentedly over and through structures and protagonists, dissolving into a visible grip of light and color that speaks intoxicatingly to the soul.

The ability to create fantastic worlds is exceptional and extraordinary. It may soon be a rarity and the lost magic of human creative talent, artistry and technique, dedication, practice and masterpiece.

His artistic work is self-propelled and draws from within, growing from sensual surrealism, strong subjectivity and psychological transcendental realism. It wraps itself in a great white arc and circles in an eternally ascending spiral in which places and timelessness disappear and everything flows together in one and eternal eternity. Almost all frequencies are accessible, it just depends on which ones you access or which ones you perceive.

The hidden portals open and close silently. Although they reflect a manifestation of something surreal in which the boundaries between reality and fantasy are blurred, the places feel close, familiar and known. When we look at the works, we are amazed by the surrealist esthetics in which fragments of reality form a multi-layered visual structure and an authentic being that consists of the world of fantasy. The world of fantasy is subject to different universal laws, they are inherent, self-created, unpredictable, always feral, levitational and extraterrestrial. But they are in themselves completely natural. The meeting of multiple lives, memories, illusions, feelings, lived, visible, unconscious through time and space, merged in one person, creates infinities, multiplying metamorphoses, floating magical parallels in which an infinite number of channels, dimensions, signals, paths, faces, creatures and jewels flow through one body, creating magic.

The magical beauty of the workings of the universe soothes and lulls the mind and transports the human spirit into a present, all-encompassing freedom of angelic surreality. Wrapped in a great white arc, we ascend in a circular spiral, coming closer and closer.

— Nina Šardi

BIOGRAPHY

Marko Jakše was born 1959 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. He graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts, Ljubljana, Slovenia in 1987. In 1993 he moved from the town to the country: he lives and works as a freelance artist in the hamlet of Mohorje, Slovenia. Jakše's debut in Maribor took place in 1996 in Pekarna and at the Maribor Art Gallery (UGM). Two years later, his exhibition *Nojeva barka / The Ostrich's Ark* laid the cornerstone for today's KiBela Gallery. Since then, one could say that Maribor has become, as it were, a second hometown for Marko Jakše. Always a favorite in the eyes of both the crowd and the critics, this rebel »with a cause« fights the Establishment because he believes that the system impoverishes art and strips art of its basic postulate, which is freedom.

»The necessity for renewal is urgent, so much that it burns... and I'm as eager as hell! The day is fresh and shiny, the sun rays glimmering through the linden tree like crystals, the sun grinning straight at me ... I'm sorry, but this really isn't a day to be spent in the studio, behind closed walls!«