

Oleksiy Lytvynenko: *Silence*

March 23 – April 22, 2018

Reception for the Artist: Friday, March 23, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

The Ukrainian Institute of America 2 East 79th Street New York, NY 10075

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NEW YORK — **Art at the Institute** is pleased to present *Silence*, an exhibition of paintings by Ukrainian artist **Oleksiy Lytvynenko**. The exhibition will open on Friday, March 23, 2018 with a reception for the artist at **The Ukrainian Institute of America** from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, and will remain on view through Sunday, April 22. Curated by Walter Hoydysch, PhD, director of Art at the Institute, the exhibition marks the artist's first solo showing with the UIA.

Lytvynenko's ethereal paintings combine organic representational elements with abstracted backgrounds in a way that is both decorative and modernist. His motifs include landscape, water, plants, insects, fish, and amphibians. He is not interested in a realistic representation of an object but in interpreting its spirit; these paintings exalt anthropocentric personality.

The artist sees the human (himself) as an integral part of nature. The affinity between man and nature is what impresses him most, rather than their contrast. He suggests by the simplest possible means

the inherent nature of the aesthetic object. He understands his duty as an artist to suggest the essence, the eternal qualities of that object, which is in itself a work of natural art before he arrives.

This search for spiritual transcendence continually influences his creative vision. He durably expresses our relationships with one another, with the natural world and with the infinite. Drawing references from Western and Eastern schools of philosophy, Lytvynenko seeks to make works that are objects of contemplation. Having undergone a process of creation, destruction and finally preservation, the stillness of meditation is echoed in the quietude of the finished paintings. Plants and creatures that transform are arranged to symbolize the enduring pattern of regeneration. The results are both curious and sublime.

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Noted Ukrainian critic Andriy Gurenko states, “Oleksiy’s works are charismatically personal and deprived of even [the] slightest hint [of] vulgar imitation. The artist’s painting is viewed as an indirect reply to Kipling’s statement of the impossibility of meeting between West and East. The [body] of visual images created by Lytvynenko allows us to see what Heidegger described as ‘landscape thinking,’ the activity of the mind that differs from the usual.”

Delicately nurtured by knowing hands, Lytvynenko’s use of subtle color harmonies and fluid drawing mark his belief in the importance of beauty in our lives. His subjects are used as links between the viewer and the artist’s feelings. And, the artist’s technique is used to create an illusion of the forms of reality. The eye can wander, and the mind can think unencumbered through visual realms that are expansively and emotionally rich — the sincere and unabashed offering of pleasure and solace.

Oleksiy Lytvynenko’s work has been exhibited extensively in Ukraine, Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States. He is the recipient of numerous awards for his painting from settings including the Salon International D’Art Contemporain (Nice, France) and the Soros Centre for Contemporary Art (Kyiv, Ukraine). He studied at the Kyiv State Art Institute and is a member of the Ukrainian Artists Union. Mr. Lytvynenko lives and works in Kyiv.

Exhibition hours: Tuesday to Sunday, 12:00 – 6:00 PM, or by appointment.

For further information: Please contact Olena Sidlovykh, executive director, at (212) 288-8660 or mail@ukrainianinstitute.org.

About Art at the Institute

Celebrating its sixty-fourth year of activity, **Art at the Institute** is the the visual arts programming division of **The Ukrainian Institute of America**. Since its establishment in 1955, Art at the Institute organizes projects and exhibitions with the aim of providing post-war and contemporary Ukrainian artists a platform for their creative output, presenting it to the broader public on New York’s Museum Mile. These heritage projects have included numerous exhibitions of traditional and contemporary art, and topical stagings that have become well-received landmark events.

Images:

Oleksiy Lytvynenko, *Water Lilies*, 2012, Oil on canvas, 88½ x 63 inches (first page)

Oleksiy Lytvynenko, *Time of the Water*, 2000, Oil on canvas, 35½ x 236¼ inches (this page)

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