

Ivan Marchuk: *Paintings*

April 4 – 28, 2019

Opening reception: Thursday, April 4, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

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NEW YORK — **Art at the Institute** is pleased to announce *Ivan Marchuk: Paintings*, a retrospective exhibition of select paintings by Ukrainian artist **Ivan Marchuk**, opening April 4, 2019 and continuing through April 28. Co-curated by Walter Hoydys, PhD, director of Art at the Institute, and Tamara Strypko, this exhibition marks the artist's first solo showing with **The Ukrainian Institute of America**. An opening reception for the public will take place on Thursday, April 4 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM.

Spanning four decades of prolific artistic production, Marchuk's paintings possess a deep philosophical world view reflecting on the deepest of universal polarities: good vs. evil, life vs. death,

harmony vs. discord, beauty vs. grotesque. He paints fantastic figural and floral compositions with elements of surrealism, hyperrealist portraits, enigmatic landscapes, and abstract expressionist compositions.

Cultivating the highest attention for detail and precision-craftsmanship, Marchuk's signature works are executed in an elaborate technique — drafting hundreds of intertwining fine lines, or filaments, enhancing an illusionistic effect of apparent depth, luminous enamel-like surfaces, and rich gradations of light. Early in his career, he dubbed this manner of painting “plontanism,” a neologism created of the Ukrainian word for the verb “to weave.”

Ivan Marchuk was born in 1936 in Moskalivka, Volhyn region of northwestern Ukraine. He graduated from the Ivan Trush Lviv State Institute of Applied and Decorative Art (Lviv, Ukraine). He began to

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exhibiting in Moscow in 1979 and Kyiv in 1980. After the 1986 Chornobyl nuclear plant disaster, Marchuk created nightmarish compositions depicting the total destruction of the planet. Until 1988, he was denied membership in the Union of Artists of Ukraine because his themes and style did not conform to the officially prescribed socialist realism. Persecuted by then Soviet authorities, he left the USSR for Australia in 1989, before living in the US and Canada.

In 1996, Marchuk's series of paintings "Shevchenki-ana" and "Voice of My Soul" won him the Shevchenko National Prize, the highest state prize of Ukraine for works of culture and the arts. He eventually returned to permanently settle in Ukraine in 2001. His works have been exhibited in Ukraine, Belgium, Germany, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovakia, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, and the US. Ivan Marchuk lives and works in Kyiv, Ukraine.

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

For further information: Please contact Olena Sidlovych, 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 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 postwar 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:

Ivan Marchuk, *Silence All Around*, 2018, acrylic on canvas, 39 1/3 x 39 1/3 inches (first page)

Ivan Marchuk, *White Planet #1*, 1997, acrylic on paper, 39 1/3 x 27 1/2 inches (this page)

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