

# Ilona Sochynsky

## *Études, Fugues and Impromptus*

October 8–31, 2021

Opening reception for the artist: Friday, October 8 from 6:00 to 8:00PM

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

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*In accordance with New York City mandate, all visitors age 12 and older must be vaccinated against COVID-19. Masks are required for all visitors.*



NEW YORK, NY — **Art at the Institute** is delighted to announce *Études, Fugues and Impromptus*, an exhibition of recent paintings by Ukrainian-American artist **Ilona Sochynsky**, opening October 8, 2021, remaining on view through October 31. Instrumental in her journey from the elaborate hyperrealism of earlier years to current explorations in abstraction, these three series of small works maintain a semblance of lyricism in tone and execution consistent with Ms. Sochynsky's established and exacting approach to the limitations of the flat picture plane.

Curated by Walter Hoydysh, PhD, Director of Art at the Institute, this exhibition marks Ms. Sochynsky's fourth solo showing with The Ukrainian Institute of America. **An opening reception for the artist will be held on Friday, October 8 from 6:00 to 8:00pm.**

*Fugues* consists of tondo (round) works on canvas exploring painterly relations between form and texture, abstracting perceived subjects enough to make them unrecognizable, and focusing on the importance of material within the picture frame, while at the same time guessing the larger visual landscape outside the prescribed pictorial boundary.

*Études* is a series of small paintings on paper introducing and employing a new technique application and medium — gouache — to study form and space in an intimate scope and physical sphere. This group was executed away from the studio in isolation during the COVID pandemic. As the title might suggest, the pieces

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in this series were composed in a finite period as an exercise in concept and method primarily for practicing a specific new skill. Worked on daily, some pieces thrive with rhythm and harmony, while others push the envelope in contrast or discord.

*Impromptus* is the artist's latest exploration using the gouache technique in further exercising composition and dimensionality, departing from *Études* and focusing on the dynamism off a central axis point around which her "objects" evolve.

Jaroslav Leshko, PhD, Prof. Emeritus of Art at Smith College wrote of Ms. Sochynsky's work, "... While every work presents a cohesive whole—a unique fantasy realm—each is constructed of interlocking, overlapping fragments of various shapes, sizes, colors and realities ... The response to Sochynsky's imagery is a process of slow revelation, even puzzlement—rarely is there an "oh, I get it" moment. The works remain complex both in their formal presentation and in their content. One is often asked to engage an image that may never yield all of its secrets, but in the attempt the viewer will discover the richness [and musicality] of the creative process."

**Ilona Sochynsky** has participated in solo and group exhibitions at the Ukrainian Institute of America (New York), The Ukrainian Museum (New York), The Noyes Museum of Art (Atlantic City, NJ), Windham Fine Arts Gallery (Windham, NY), and Kaaterskill Fine Arts Gallery (Hunter, NY). Her works are included in the permanent collections of The Ukrainian Museum (New York) and the Zimmerli Art Museum (Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ). Ms. Sochynsky is a member of the Ukrainian Institute of America. She works and lives in New York.

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

**For further information:** Please contact Walter Hoydysh, PhD, Director of Art at the Institute at (212) 288-8660 or [mail@ukrainianinstitute.org](mailto:mail@ukrainianinstitute.org).

**Image:** Ilona Sochynsky, *Impromptu* #8 (2021), gouache on paper, sheet size: 12 x 9 in. (30.48 x 22.86 cm).

### **About Art at the Institute**

Celebrating its sixty-sixth 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, modern and contemporary art, and topical stagings that have become well-received landmark events.

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