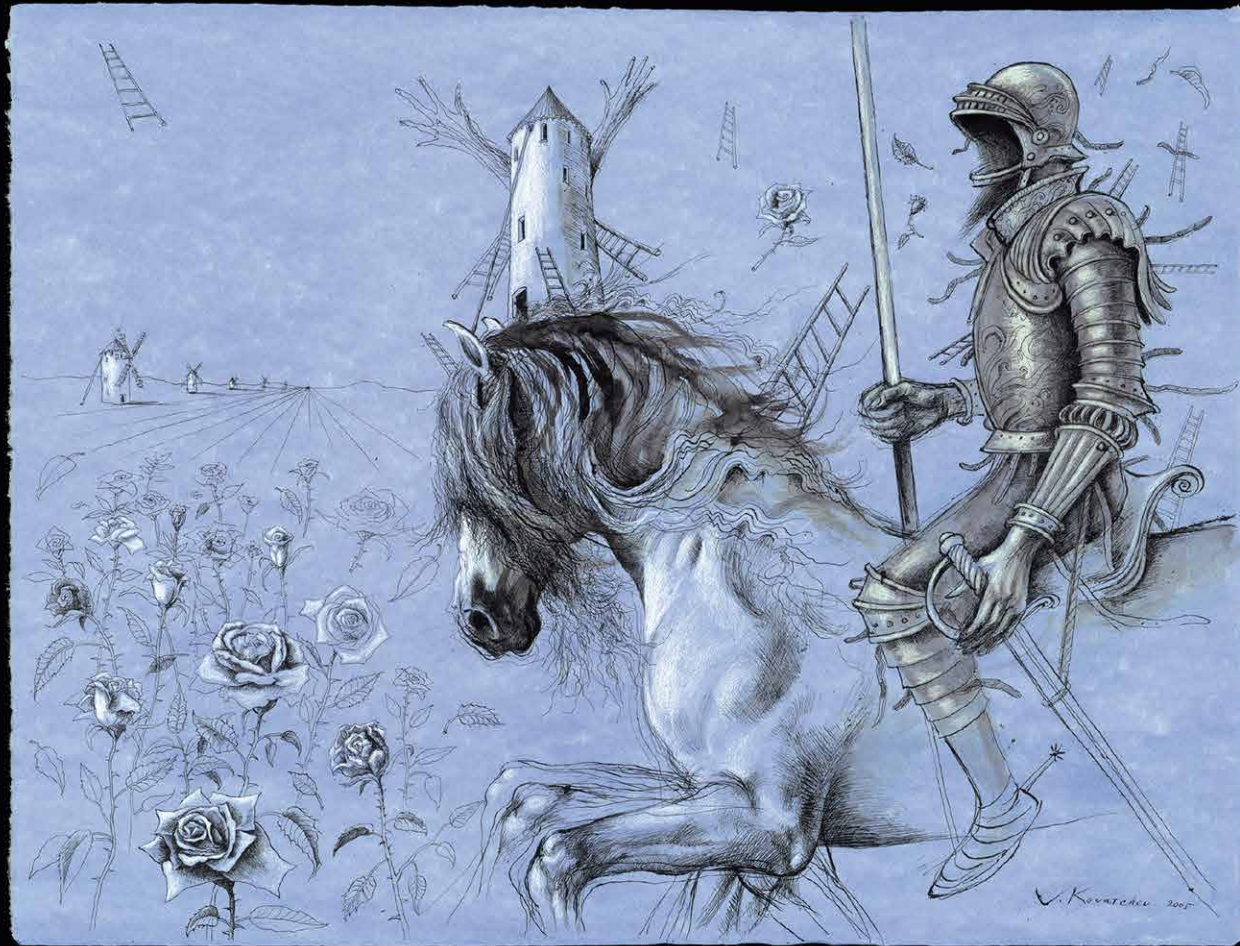


DON QUIJOTE DE LA MANCHA · DON QUIXOTE OF LA MANCHA · ラ · マンチャの男ドン · キホーテ

VISIONES · VISIONS · 様々なヴィジョン



*DON QUIXOTE WITH A BULGARIAN SOUL*  
VALENTIN KOVATCHEV

*DON QUIXOTE WITH A BULGARIAN SOUL*  
*HOMAGE TO KING SIMEON OF BULGARIA*

VALENTIN KOVATCHEV

---

PRESENTATION BY  
ROSARIO ESCOBAR SEGOVIA





*V. Kovatchev 2001*



*Miguel*

МИГУЕЛ СЕРВАНТЕС

# НАЙ-ХУБАВОТО ОТ ДОН КИХОТ

*Ка мав син Валентин  
да пожелатие!  
да прочитат детайлно  
физическите и духовните  
образи на героите  
Дон Кихот и Санчо Панса  
след което да предпримат  
нова художествена серия  
за тези испански национални герои!*

Превод и преразказ на  
ПОДВЪРЗАЧОВ

и свързващ текст на  
ХР ДЖАМБАЗКИ

Трето издание

*Мкован*  
\*

НАРОДНА КУЛТУРА  
СОФИЯ 1964

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to all, it is a great honor for both Valentin and myself, to be here with you at the opening of the Exhibition Hall of the Venta del Quijote.

I will start by telling you that Valentin Kovatchev knew well the Quixote before arriving in Spain in 1992, not only for having studied it at the art school in the Lyceum of Fine Arts in Sophia, but because his father used to read him his favorite passages since his early childhood, he always said that knight would ride every road till he got to the land of Bulgaria but it was written that it would be the artist who would ride every road to reach the land of La Mancha.



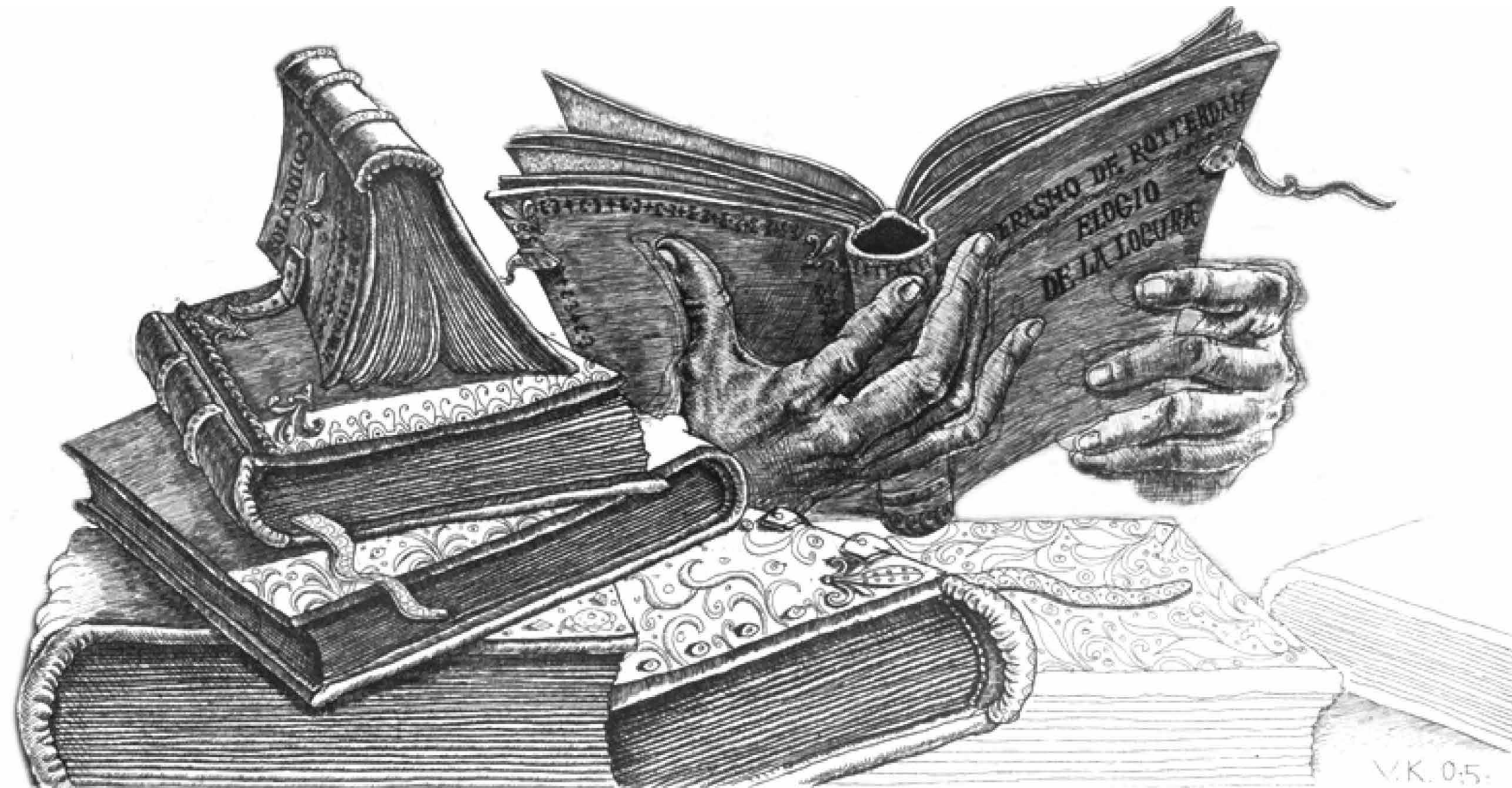
In 1994 Milko, his father asked him to study the book again to start a new art series inspired by this Spanish national hero, although that promise would take some time to be met due to the many commitments and exhibitions of the artist, the idea had begun to germinate in his mind and in his heart.



Kovatchev did not want to make another fictional Quixote, he wanted to bring something new, something more spiritual, a person who represented those human and spiritual values defended by Cervantes through his magnificent work.

Suddenly we both came up with the figure of King Simeon of Bulgaria and from that moment on began an arduous study and research to see if this crazy, but deeply felt idea, could be feasible.

It was wonderful to discover that despite the centuries, there was a spiritual bond that united the two characters, the humanist reference for Miguel de Cervantes was Erasmus of Rotterdam and the spiritual guide of the King Simeon is Erasmus of Rotterdam, step by step this admirable meeting of cultures was configured.







We would also find in his biography that King Simeon himself compared his life to that of Don Quixote.

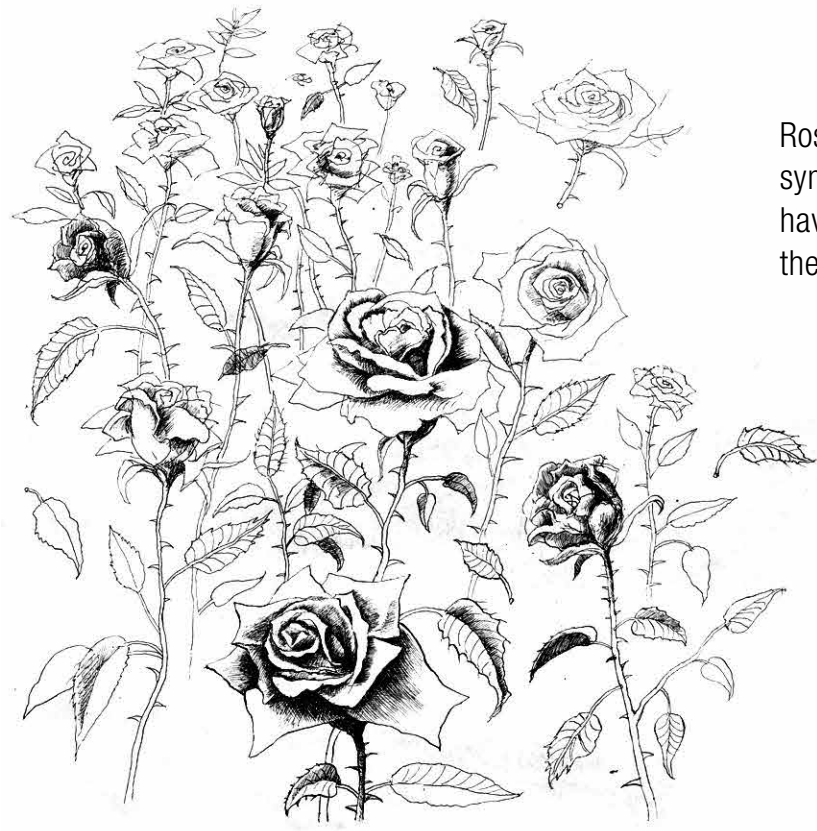
AND THERE WAS NO DOUBT, “Don Quixote with a Bulgarian soul” was going to be the hardest project of his career and which, at the same time, would fulfill the promise to his father, who sadly did not live to see it come to life.



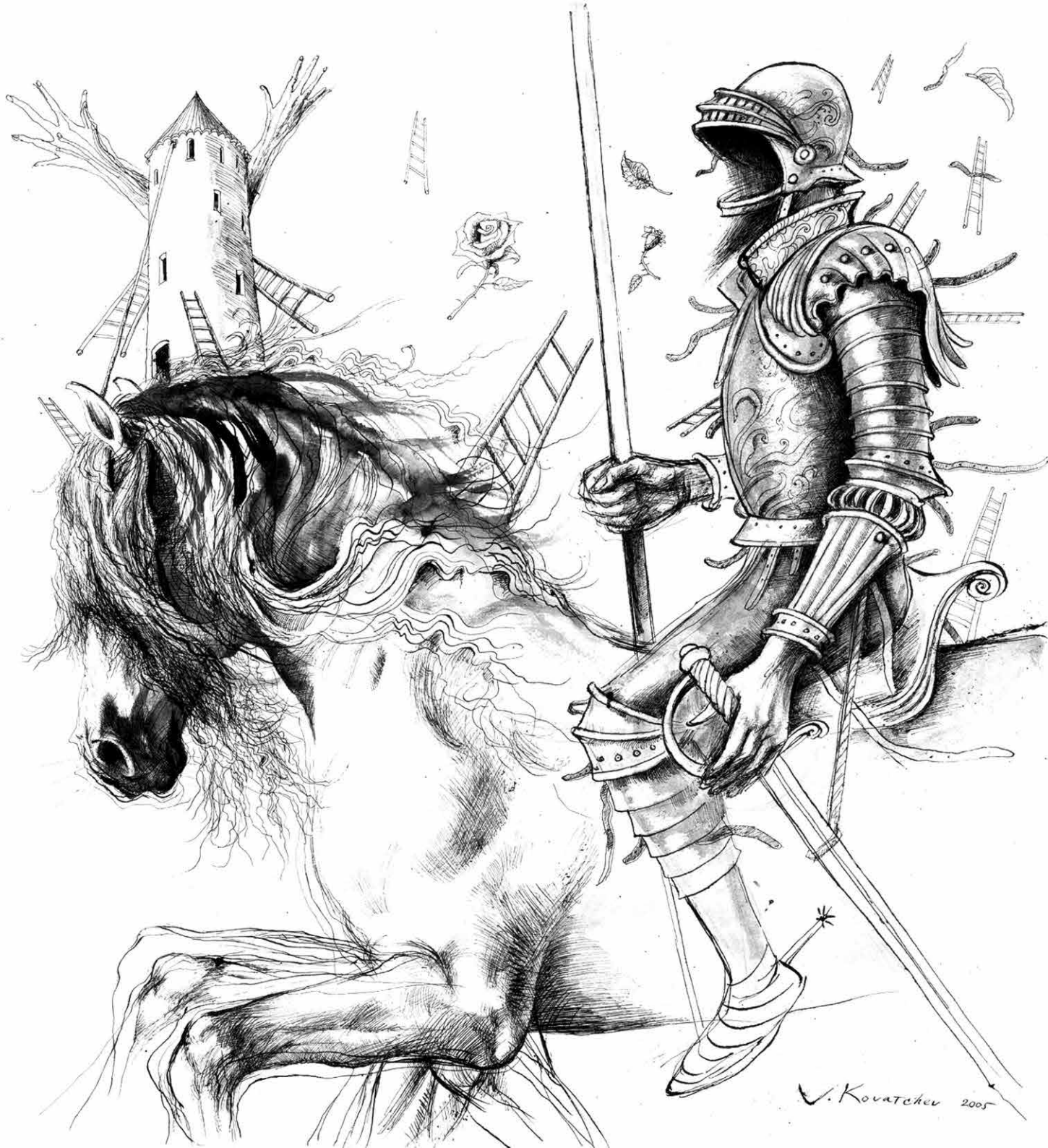


Throughout the eleven works you will see in the exhibition, observe as mills become dragons, this is how the pattern in Bulgaria of St. George slaying the dragon is usually represented, symbolizing the struggle between Good and Evil.



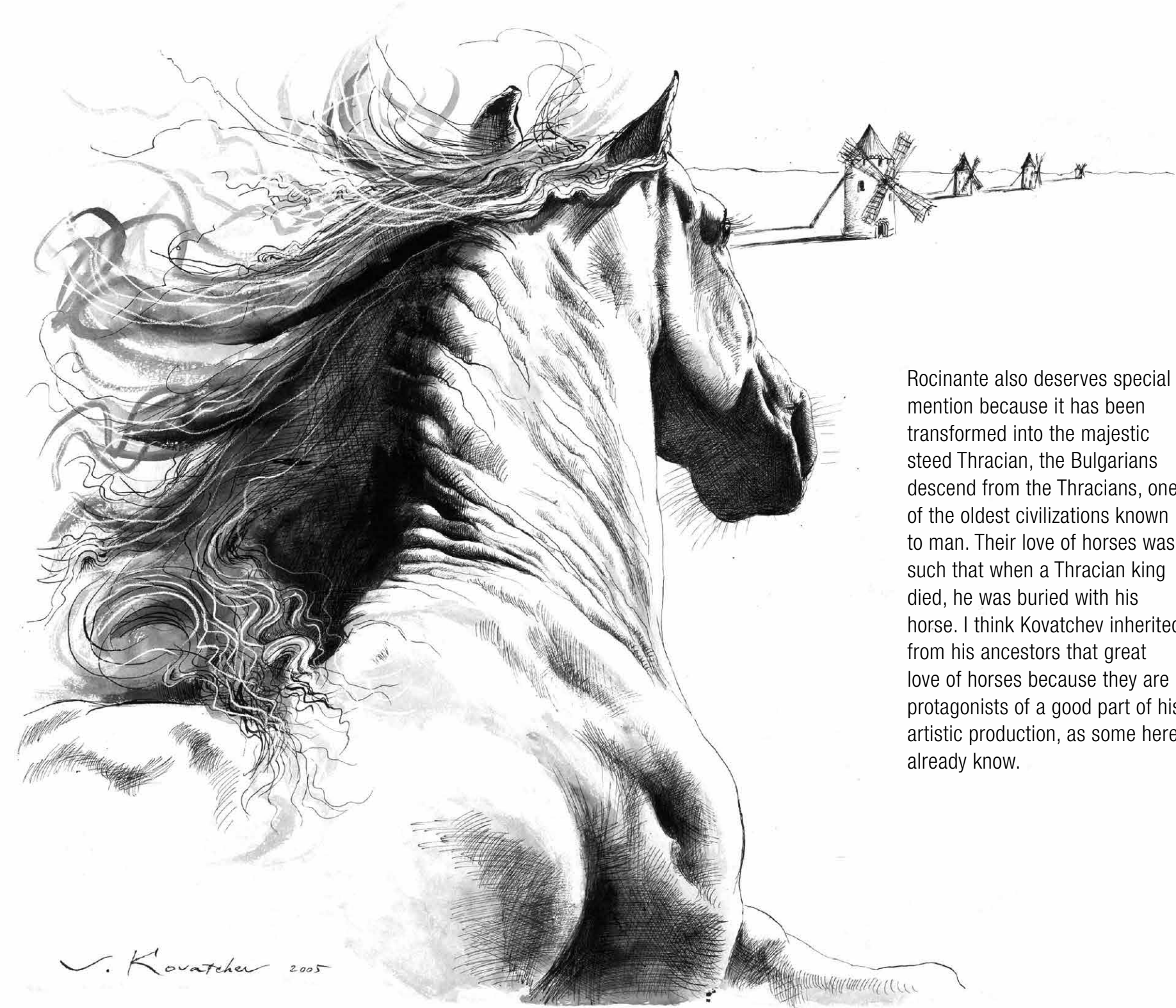


Roses also appear, the rose is the symbol of Bulgaria, where they have been grown for centuries in the Valley of Roses in Kazanlak.



Also observe that sometimes, Don Quixote has no face. AND NO, it has not been forgotten by the artist, this is because there comes a time during the artistic process and because the total project consists of nineteen works, in which the spirit of Don Quixote seizes the character to the point that you no longer need any face, because essential the spirituality is already present in each one of the works.

Picasso also described this happening to him frequently and used to say that *"the work is stronger than me, making me do what it wants"* and I can assure you that is absolutely true, if there are any artists present here they will surely agree with me.

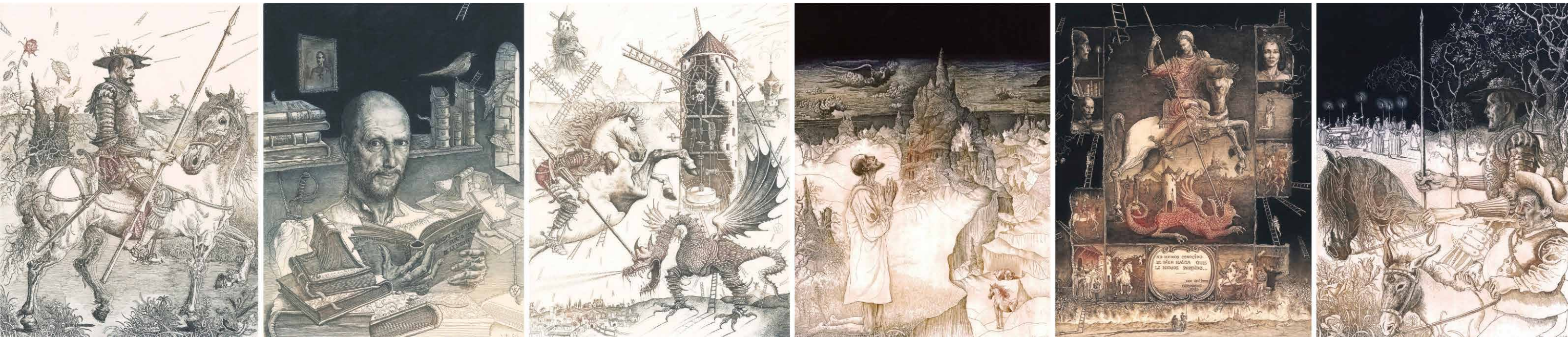


Rocinante also deserves special mention because it has been transformed into the majestic steed Thracian, the Bulgarians descend from the Thracians, one of the oldest civilizations known to man. Their love of horses was such that when a Thracian king died, he was buried with his horse. I think Kovatchev inherited from his ancestors that great love of horses because they are protagonists of a good part of his artistic production, as some here already know.

And speaking of Thracians, another legend comes to mind, another Quixote, Spartacus, the famous gladiator and slave who rebelled against the cruelty of the Roman Empire.







Regarding the Suite “Don Quixote with a Bulgarian soul” comprised of six etchings, this collection is also part of our national heritage and can be seen in the Printmaking Department of the National Library in Madrid.

The technique used is “etching” this very complex technical process is on display. Kovatchev invented his own technique of engraving and etching in 1987 after many years of study and research and for which he has won numerous awards and accolades in Bulgaria, Greece, Japan, Yugoslavia, Italy, Mexico, Germany and Spain. So he was appointed as Academician by the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of Saint Elisabeth of Hungary in Seville and by the International Academy of Modern Art in Rome.

Also near here in Valdepeñas, he won the First Prize in the Drawing Contest Gregorio Prieto and the winning work can be seen in the Museum.





I also would like to end by saying that King Boris III, father of King Simeon, should have been for present for his own merit in this heartfelt tribute.

King Boris died at 49 years of age, it is said he had been poisoned by Hitler, because despite being allies, he refused to send Bulgarian troops to the Russian front, due to the fact that the Russians liberated Bulgaria from five centuries of Turkish rule, but also because he did not deport any Bulgarian Jews to Nazi death camps. His great deed will be acknowledged for ever.

During these difficult and turbulent days, while German troops were in Bulgaria, something wonderful happened, something Quixotic. It is a true story that took place in Sophia. The Germans had arrested hundreds of Bulgarian Jews, perhaps thousands, already locked in a train with a horrible fate. Then the Bulgarian people responded by flooding into the street, heading for the train station and blocking the roads and tracks with their bodies and so it was that a death train never departed to its horrible destiny.





Miraculously the Germans released all those people. ALL SAVED, but King Boris would bear the cost with his own life. Can you visualize that scene? Can you imagine the courage of the Bulgarian People? Please do so.

For many days, long nights, the sobs of Bulgarians would be heard for the loss of their dear King Boris.

Valentin would know this tragic episode by the stories told by his mother Elisaveta.





Simeon was crowned King at six years of age and when he was scarcely nine years old he was expelled from his native land, but his heart has always remained anchored to his old homeland.

Fate would bring him to Spain, where he met Doña Margarita Gómez-Acebo and formed a great family.

Our hope, Valentin's and myself, is that this brief and endearing presentation may highlight some of the noble values underlying the Series "Don Quixote with a Bulgarian soul".

Picasso said that *"we must see all pictures behind a picture"*, there is certainly plenty to see and feel in this collection.

The permanent exhibition "DON QUIXOTE OF LA MANCHA. VISIONS" which you will soon visit is not only a wonderful artistic and cultural project, which it is, but also a fascinating journey through time and History.

We hope you enjoy this great adventure.

Thank you very much for your attention.

**Charo Escobar**



WORKS EXHIBITION



DON QUIXOTE WITH A BULGARIAN SOUL I

Giclée, 80 x 100 cm. 2005



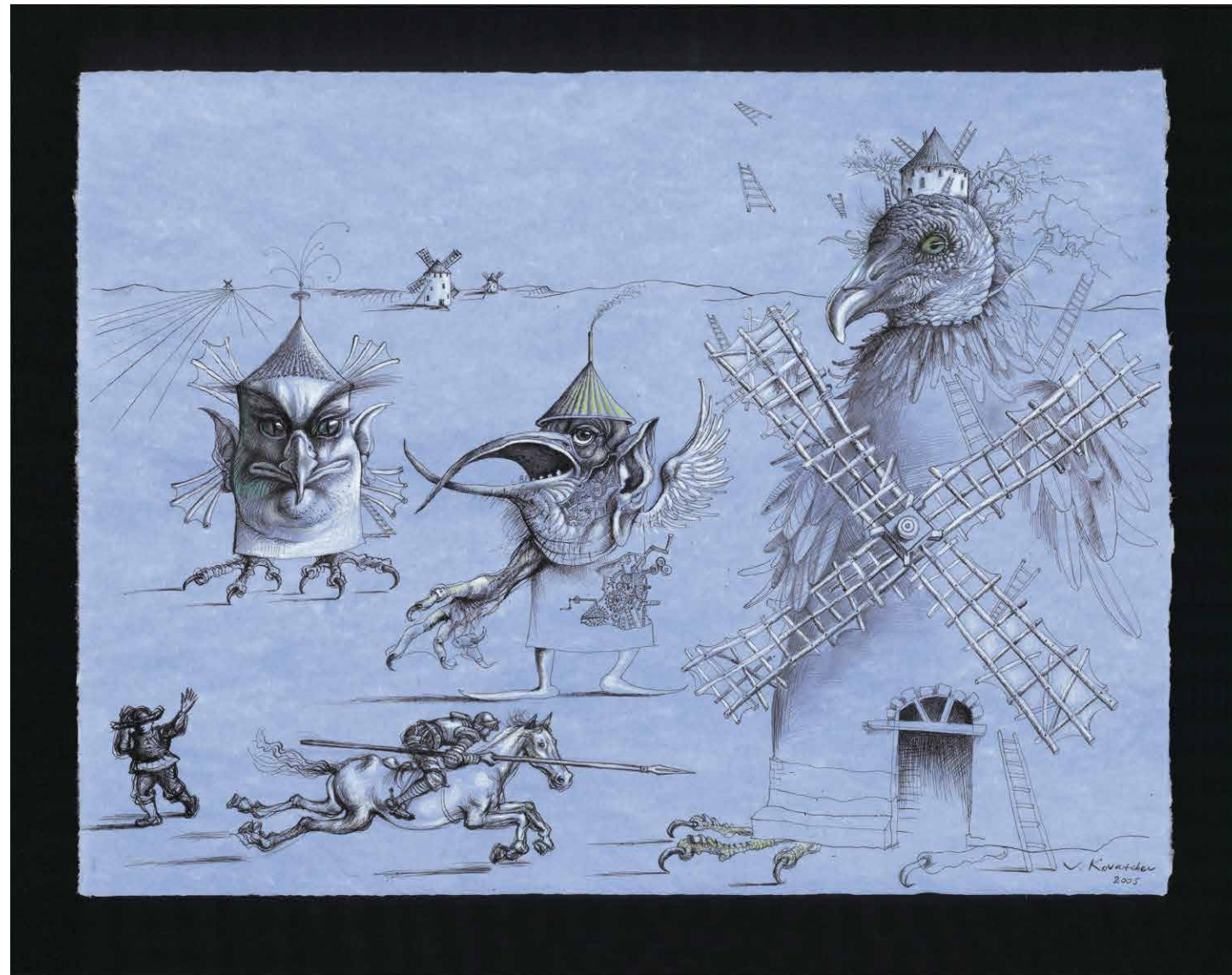


DON QUIXOTE WITH A BULGARIAN SOUL. ROCINANTE I  
Giclée, 60 x 80 cm. 2005



DON QUIXOTE WITH A BULGARIAN SOUL. ROCINANTE II  
Giclée, 60 x 80 cm. 2005



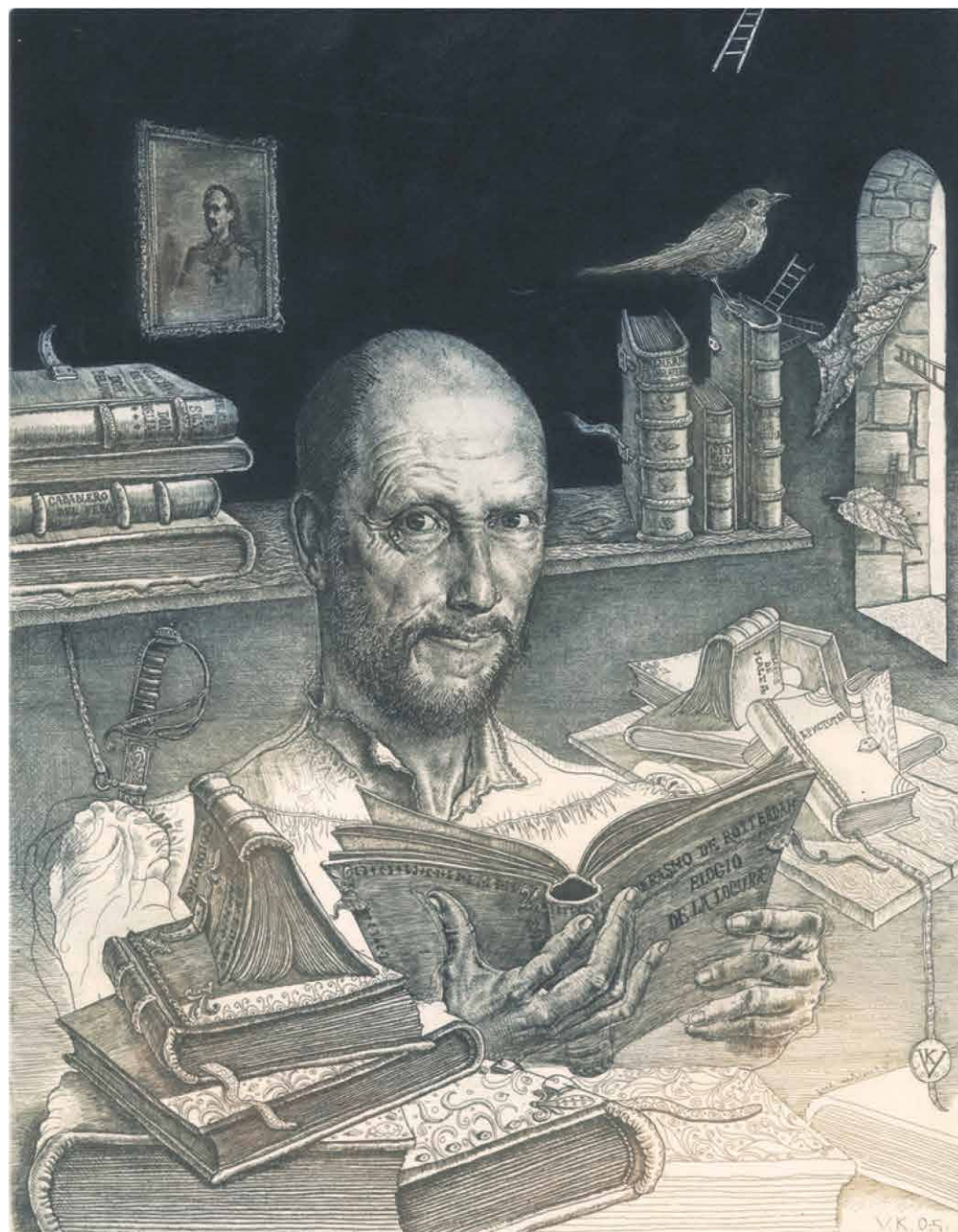


DON QUIXOTE WITH A BULGARIAN SOUL. MONSTERS WINDMILLS I  
Giclée, 60 x 80 cm. 2005



DON QUIXOTE WITH A BULGARIAN SOUL. MONSTERS WINDMILLS II  
Giclée, 60 x 80 cm. 2005





SUITE DON QUIXOTE WITH A BULGARIAN SOUL I  
Etching and mezzotint, 33 x 25 cm. 2005

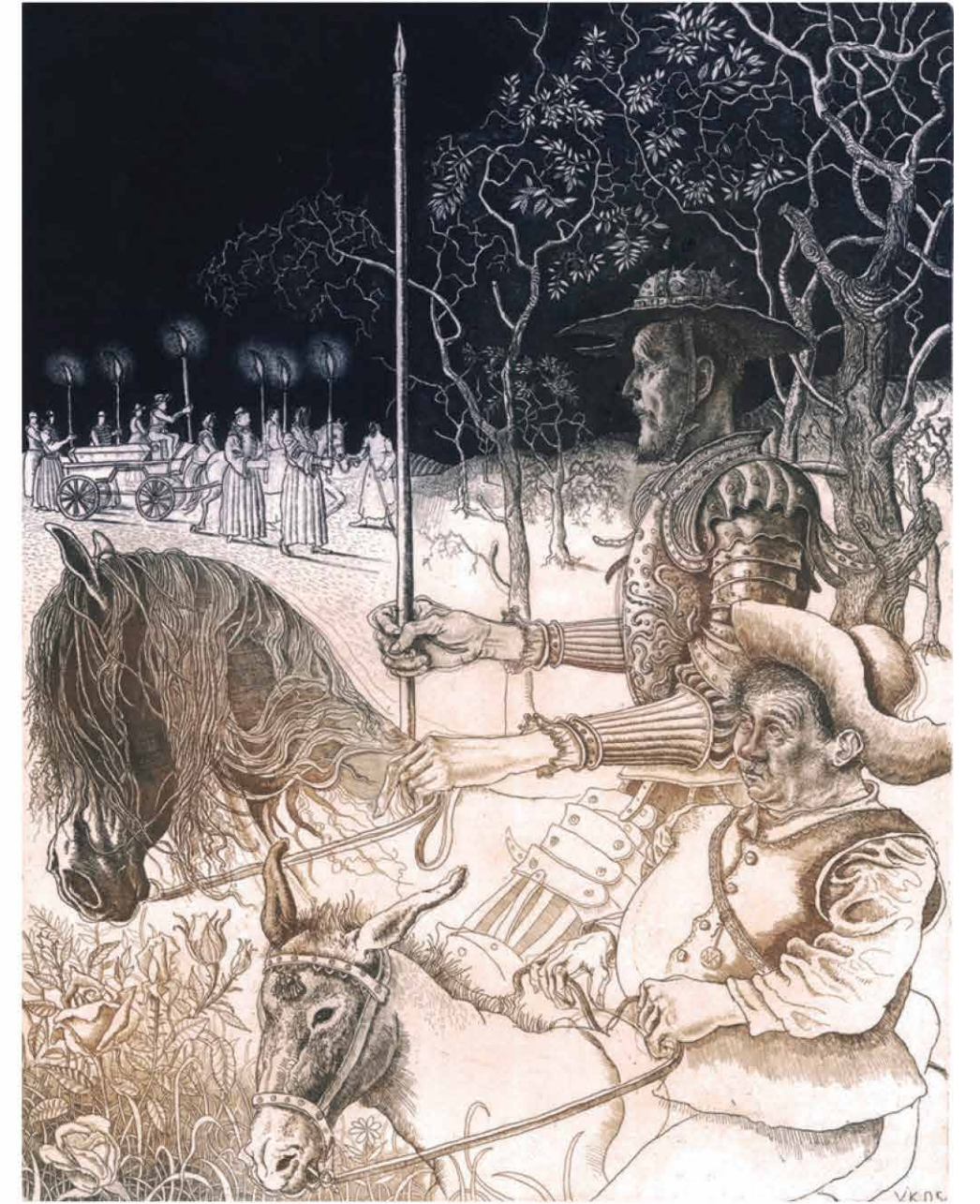


SUITE DON QUIXOTE WITH A BULGARIAN SOUL II  
Etching, 33 x 25 cm. 2005



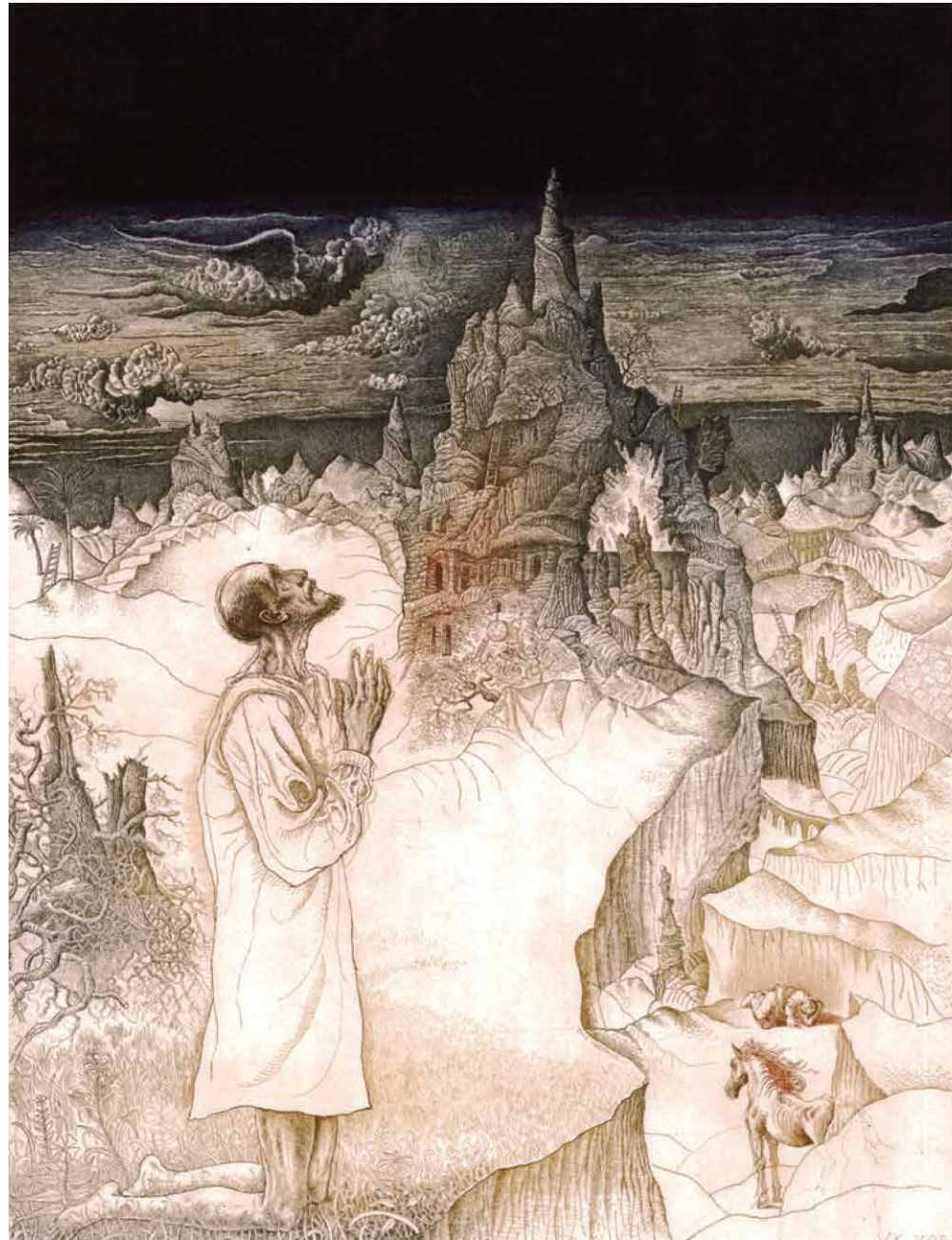


SUITE DON QUIXOTE WITH A BULGARIAN SOUL III  
Etching, 33 x 25 cm. 2005



SUITE DON QUIXOTE WITH A BULGARIAN SOUL IV  
Etching and mezzotint, 33 x 25 cm. 2005





SUITE DON QUIXOTE WITH A BULGARIAN SOUL V  
Etching and mezzotint, 33 x 25 cm. 2005



SUITE DON QUIXOTE WITH A BULGARIAN SOUL VI  
Etching and mezzotint, 33 x 25 cm. 2005





Their Majesties King Simeon and Queen Margarita of Bulgaria,  
with the artist Valentin Kovatchev and his wife Rosario Escobar.

**Madrid, February 1993.**

*The quill is the tongue of the soul...*  
**Cervantes**



*EXHIBITION*

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Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria  
Town Hall of Puerto Lapice

... And to all the people who have made possible the realization of this project.





EXHIBITION HALL

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Permanent Exhibition

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