



VALENTÍN KOVATCHEV  
METAMORPHOSIS

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## METAMORPHOSIS

DRAWINGS · ETCHINGS · PAINTINGS · PORTRAITS

**BRUXELLES. 3 - 15 Octobre**  
**GALERIE ALFICAN**

2, Place du Grand Sablon  
Tel. +32 497 156 198

Ouvert tous les jours de 11h à 18h30

**Vernissage: Vendredi 3 Octobre à partir de 18 h.**

**Avec la présence de Pauline van der Rest au violon**

[www.kovatchev.com](http://www.kovatchev.com)



Ambassade de la République de  
Bulgarie au Royaume de Belgique

It is a pleasure and indeed a privilege to be associated for the second year running with the work of the outstanding Bulgarian-Spanish artist Valentin Kovatchev. Last year in March we had the chance to admire and partake in his successful exhibition "Metaphysical spaces" also held here in Brussels. This year's "Metamorphosis" promises to be no less remarkable.

Mr. Kovatchev offers us a new collection of drawings, etchings, paintings and portraits. They are full of symbols but more importantly they are full of soul and sensitivity. The technique used is very much Mr. Kovatchev's own -an original style with a filigree quality. The great talent of the author, honed by hard and loving work, takes us on a journey through magical and surreal places and images. It is a dream world where even the most mundane ceases to be such. A fascinating mix which is very much worth seeing!

My thanks go to all those who have helped with this wonderful event. I already look forward to the next one!

**Vesselin Valkanov**

Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria  
To the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

## DA VINCI, TOUCHED BY THE FALCON

He was only a child when he began to write his own legend. A falcon descending from on high drew near to him and, with its gentle wings, caressed the small head of the genius. That day, Leonardo imagined, for the first time, wings that would always accompany him in his dreams. Wings on which to soar to the firmament, but, in contrast to Icarus, without melting any wax. Wings to be carried upward. To be reborn. Time would do the rest.

Since then, the inventiveness of Leonardo would fly behind his falcon. His was a Renaissance inventiveness which was reinvented in its proper proportions, in the extraordinary and harmonious work of uniting art with creativity so as to mould it later with the simplest of lines. His was an inventiveness that flew through time and space to be reflected time and again in those who drew and painted against the current, in those who trusted in finding yearned-for freedom and raising themselves above the everyday humdrum. The same thing as happened one day in Anciano, near da Vinci, as happened another day, centuries later, in the Valley of Roses in Bulgaria, there where the ladders of Valentin Kovatchev were increasingly speeding heavenwards for the encounter with the falcon.

Valentin also discovered as a child that life is always a process of being born again and, above all, that the rose lives anew when the other dies. In his drawing, in his engraving, in his painting are his origin and his plan, his memory and his prophecy. Valentin is reborn in each work so as to live again and more intensely. In him, art is living more intensely because, in the end, the life of an artist is the eternal possibility of discovering oneself in other eyes, while new wings are imagined, and more ladders are launched skywards.

Life is the serenity of the Mona Lisa in her eternal gaze, full of irony and mystery. Life is like eyes that watch, eyes that project themselves in geometries, spheres that levitate in universes as in chess moves, eyes that glance around momentarily to hold on to the last image. Lives and legends that are reborn and reinvented. Nothing has changed, Valentin, genius always comes back to be moved by nature. Nothing has changed. Only we have gone ahead of time, like a fleeting puff of air. Like furtive air at the meeting of its wings.

**Rosario Escobar de Kovatchev**





"For we have to listen to what light paints in the falcon eye  
which is not more than a guitar string."

**Picasso**





*DA VINCI TOUCHED BY THE FALCON*  
Pencil drawing, 60 x 98 cm. 2008

*FALCON WITH CHESSBOARD*  
Oil and pencil drawing on canvas, 33 x 41 cm. 2014







*THE EYE OF THE FALCON I*  
Pencil drawing, 71 x 83 cm. 2009

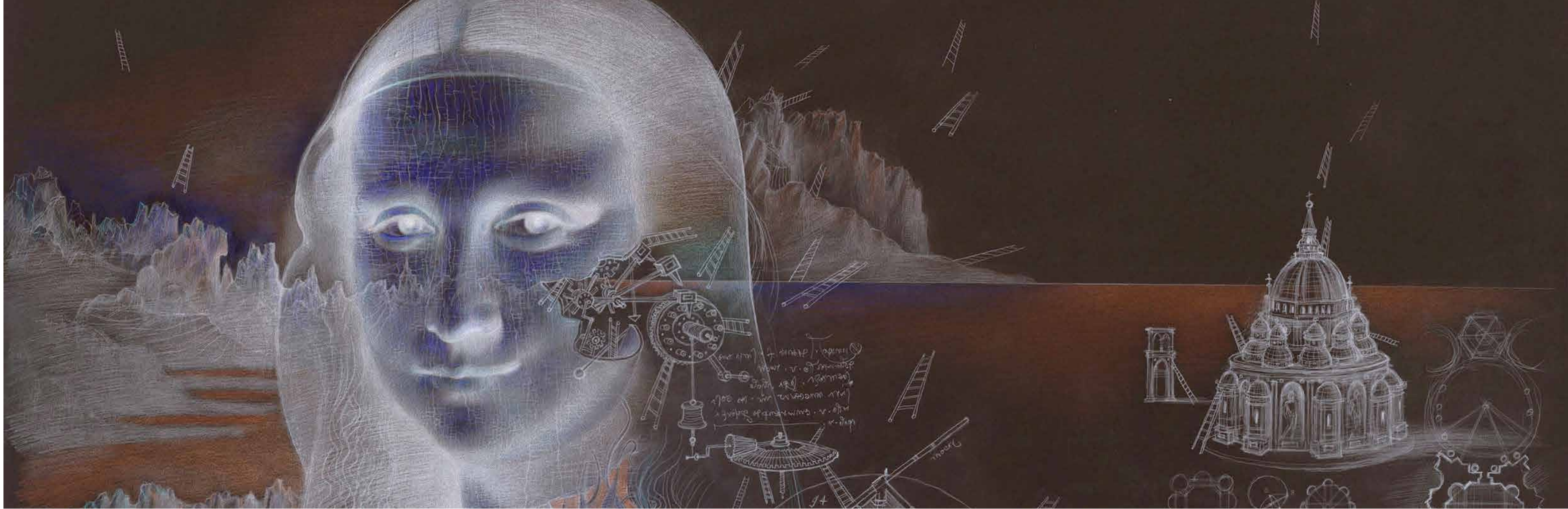


*K. Kurochkin 2003*



THE EYE OF THE FALCON II  
Pencil drawing, 60 x 100 cm. 2009





"A work of art is never finished, only abandoned."

**Leonardo da Vinci**





MONA LISA  
Pencil drawing, 56 x 71 cm. 2008

V. Kovatchev 2008





LEONARDO DA VINCI  
Pencil drawing, 56 x 71 cm. 2008

MARIANA OF AUSTRIA  
Pencil drawing, 112 x 81 cm. 2007





"Music is the arithmetic of sounds as optics is the geometry of light"

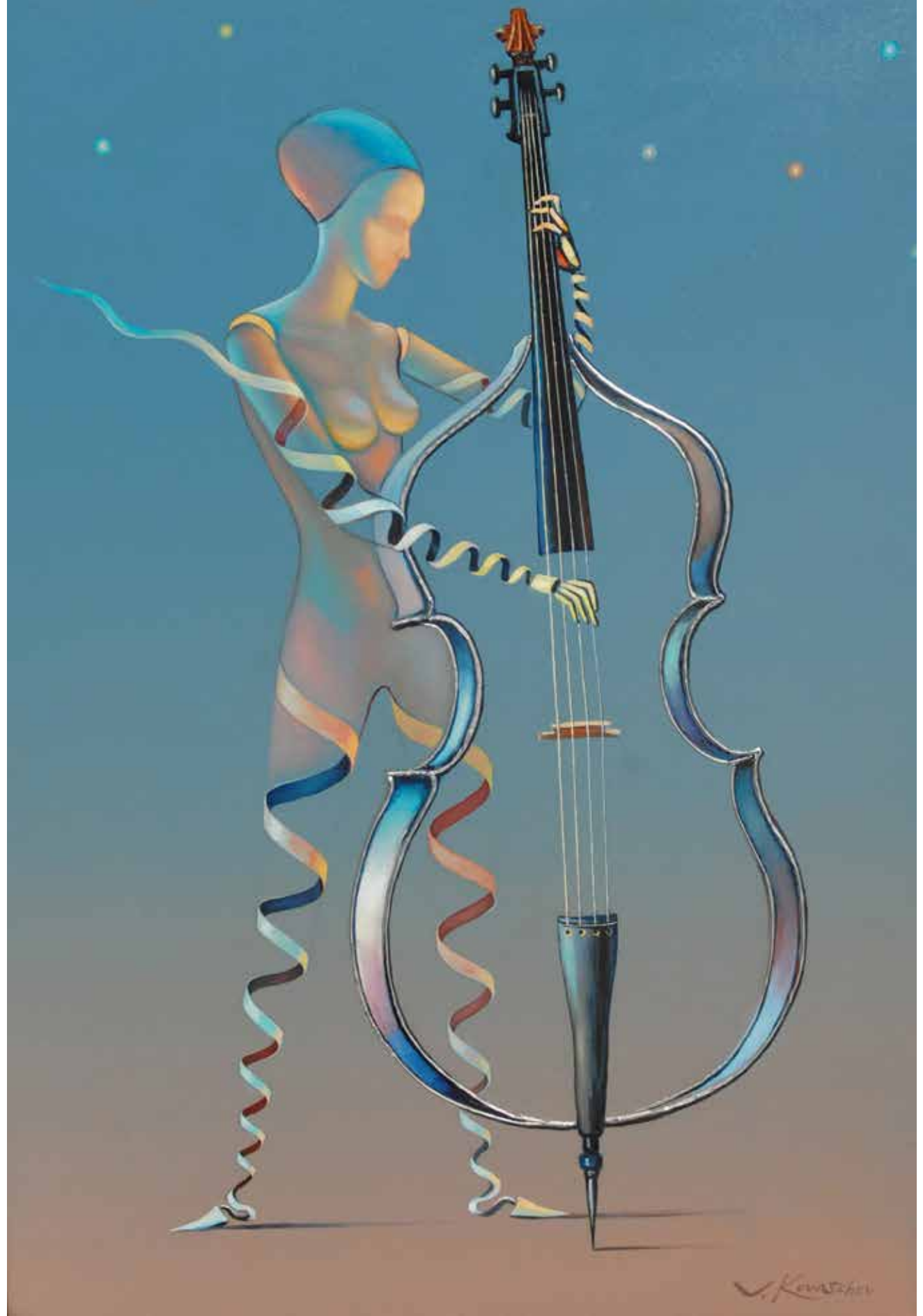
**Claude Debussy**





*VIOLINIST IN BLUE*  
Oil on canvas, 92 x 65 cm. 2013

CONTRABASSIT IN BLUE  
Oil on canvas, 92 x 65 cm. 2013





*DANCE OF THE MASKS III*  
Oil on canvas, 100 x 50 cm. 2013





*DANCE OF THE MASKS IV*  
Oil con canvas, 100 x 50 cm. 2013



"It is not enough to hear the Music, it must also be seen."

**Igor Stravinsky**

*MILES DAVIS*  
Oil and pencil drawing on canvas, 92 x 46 cm. 2014





*JACQUES BRELL*  
Pencil drawing on canvas, 92 x 46 cm. 2012



*JIMMY HENDRIX*

Oil and pencil drawing on canvas, 92 x 46 cm. 2012





ROBOTIKAS I  
 Oil and drawing on canvas, 100 x 81 cm. 2010



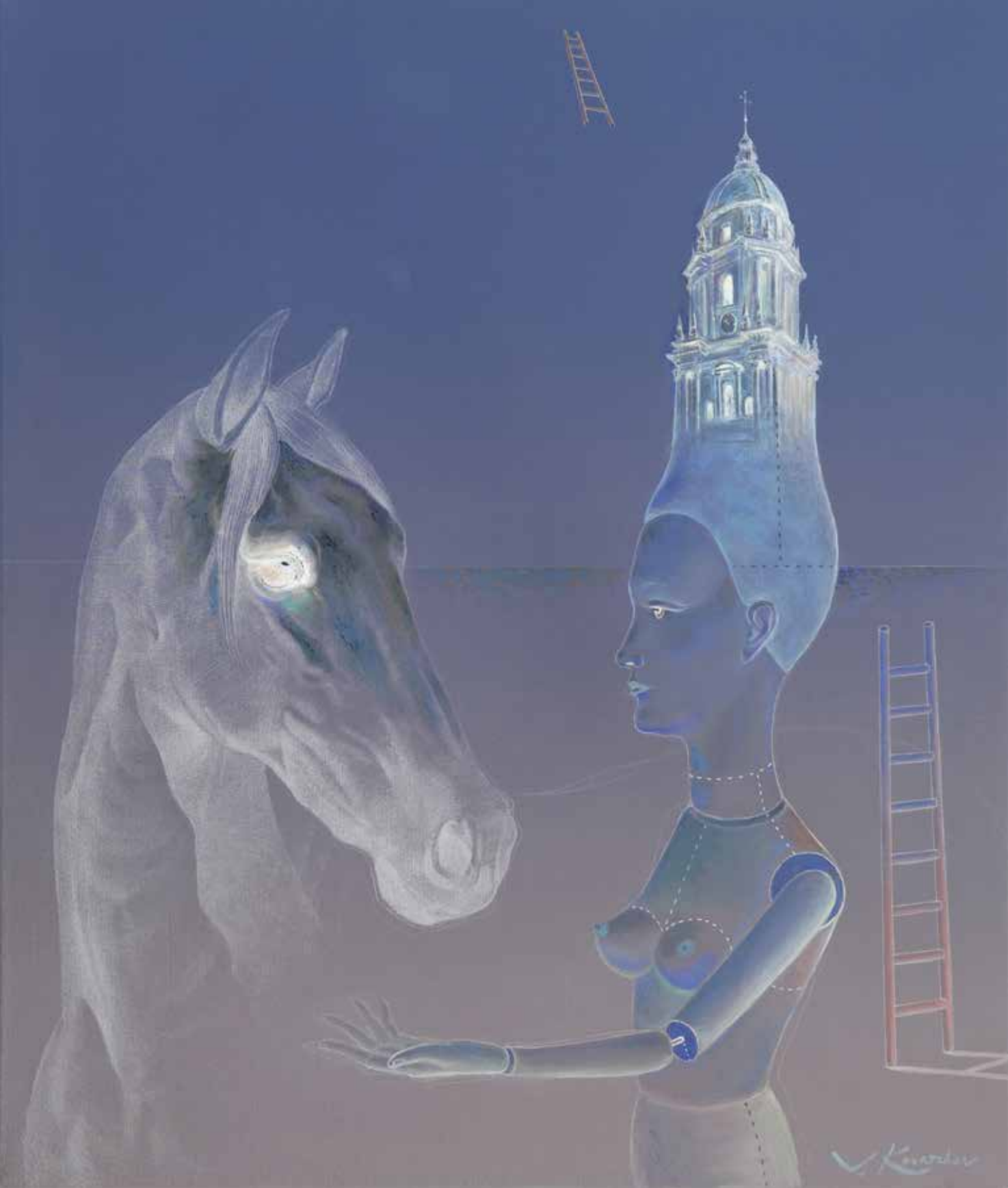
V. Kvaschev





*ANDROMEDA II*  
Pencil drawing, 50 x 65 cm. 1998





LADY OF THE HORSE I  
Oil on canvas, 55 x 46 cm. 2012



"Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old."

**Franz Kafka**

*MAJESTIC HORSE VII, in progress*



*MAJESTIC HORSE II*  
Oil on canvas, 89 x 116 cm. 2014





*MAJESTIC HORSE III*

Oil on canvas, 81 x 100 cm. 2014



*MAJESTIC HORSE VII*  
Oil on canvas, 81 x 100 cm. 2014

*Kenneth*



MAJESTIC HORSE IV  
Oil on canvas, 33 x 41 cm. 2014







*MAJESTIC HORSE VI*  
Oil on canvas, 33 x 41 cm. 2014





MAJESTIC HORSE I

Oil on canvas, 33 x 41 cm. 2014



MAJESTIC HORSE V  
Oil on canvas, 38 x 46 cm. 2014



*HORSE ON THE MOONLIGHT II*  
Oil on canvas, 135 x 195 cm. 2012







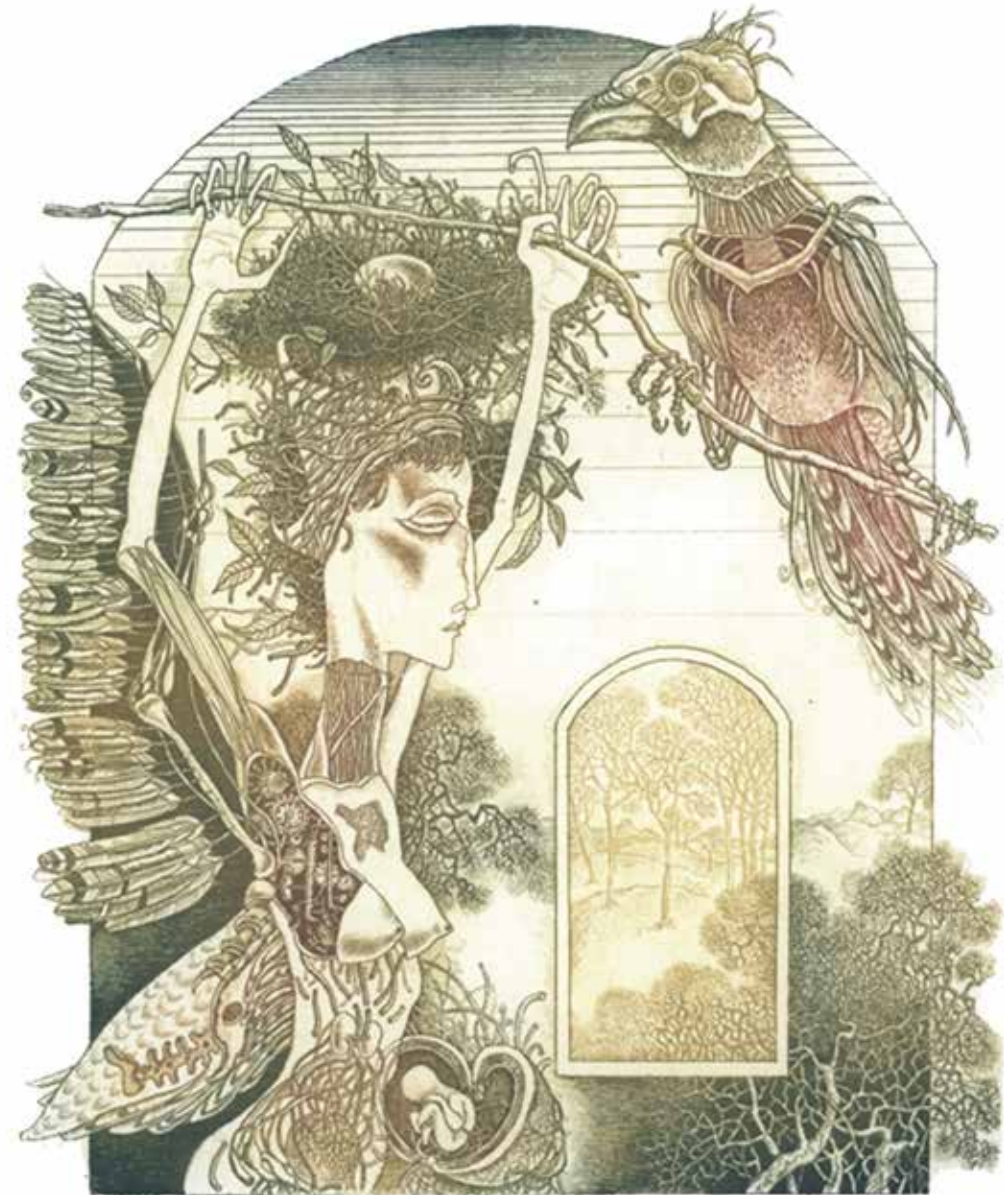
"Wherever the soul does not work together with the hands, there is not art."

**Leonardo Da Vinci**





*OF BIRDS AND MEN III*  
Etching, 24 x 18 cm. 1989



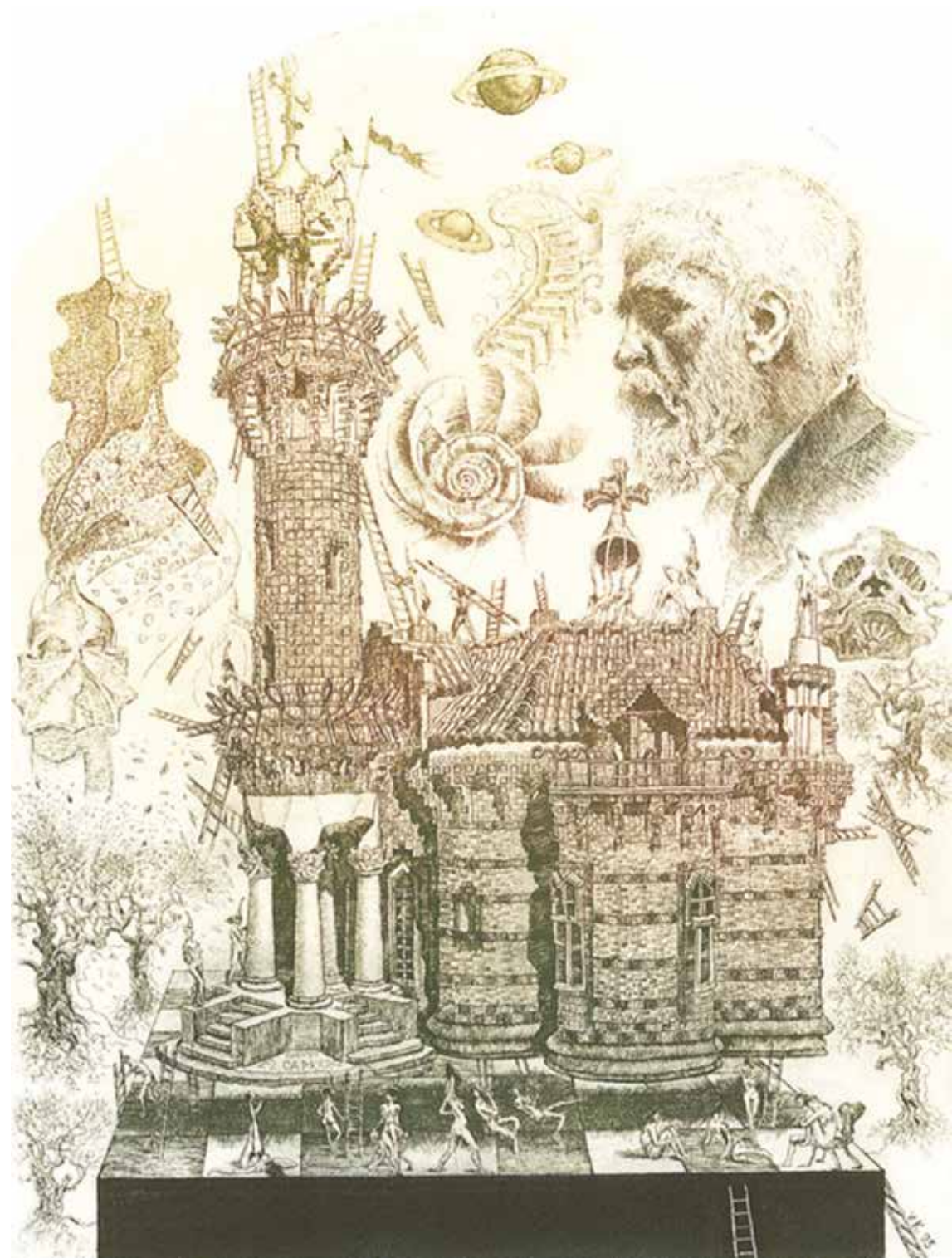
*OF BIRDS AND MEN II*  
Etching, 24 x 18 cm. 1989



*FABULOUS BRUSSELS*  
Etching, 23 x 29 cm. 1992





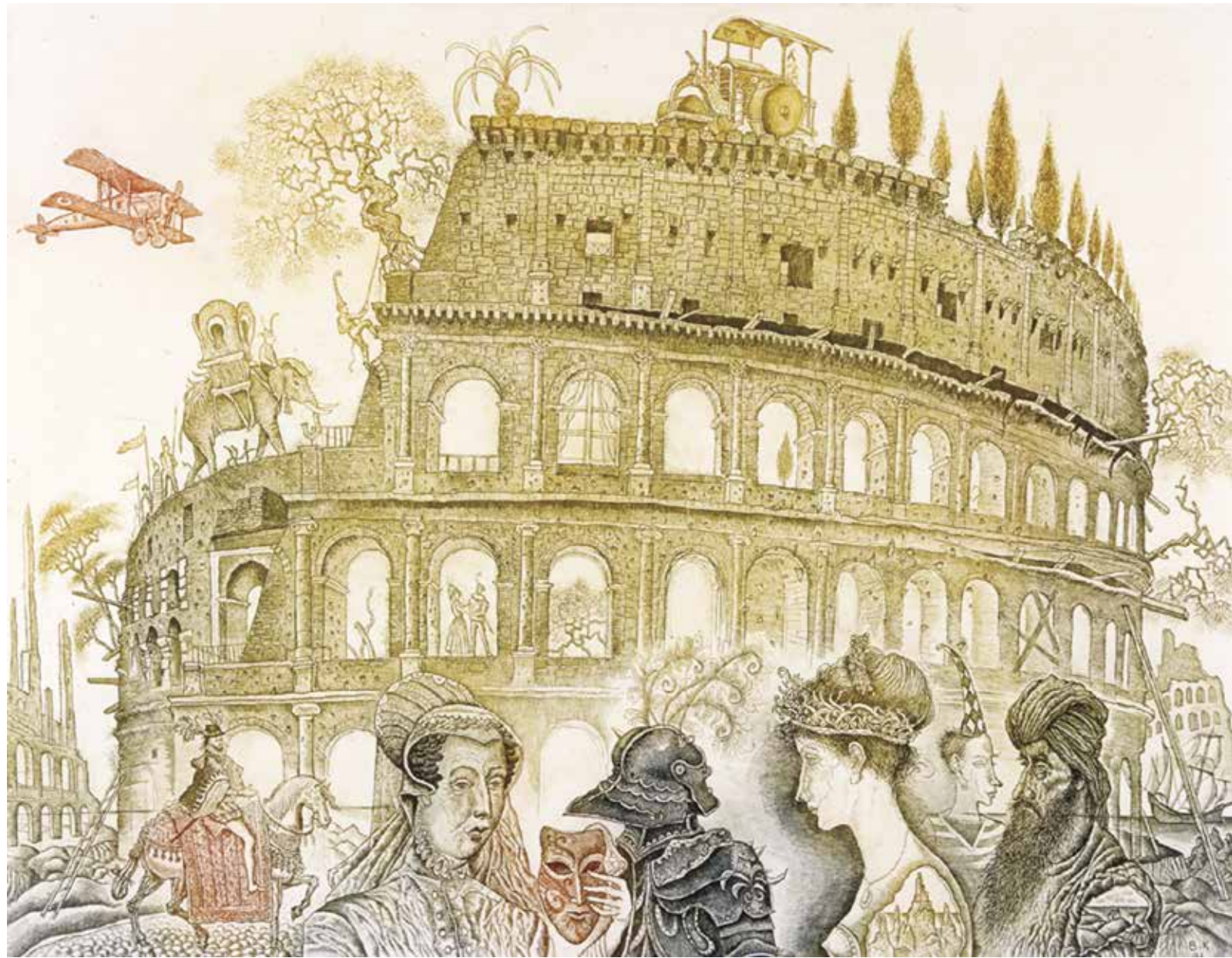


*THE CAPRICE OF GAUDI*  
Etching and mezzotint, 19 x 14 cm. 1995

BATLLO HOUSE  
Etching, 14 x 9 cm. 1994



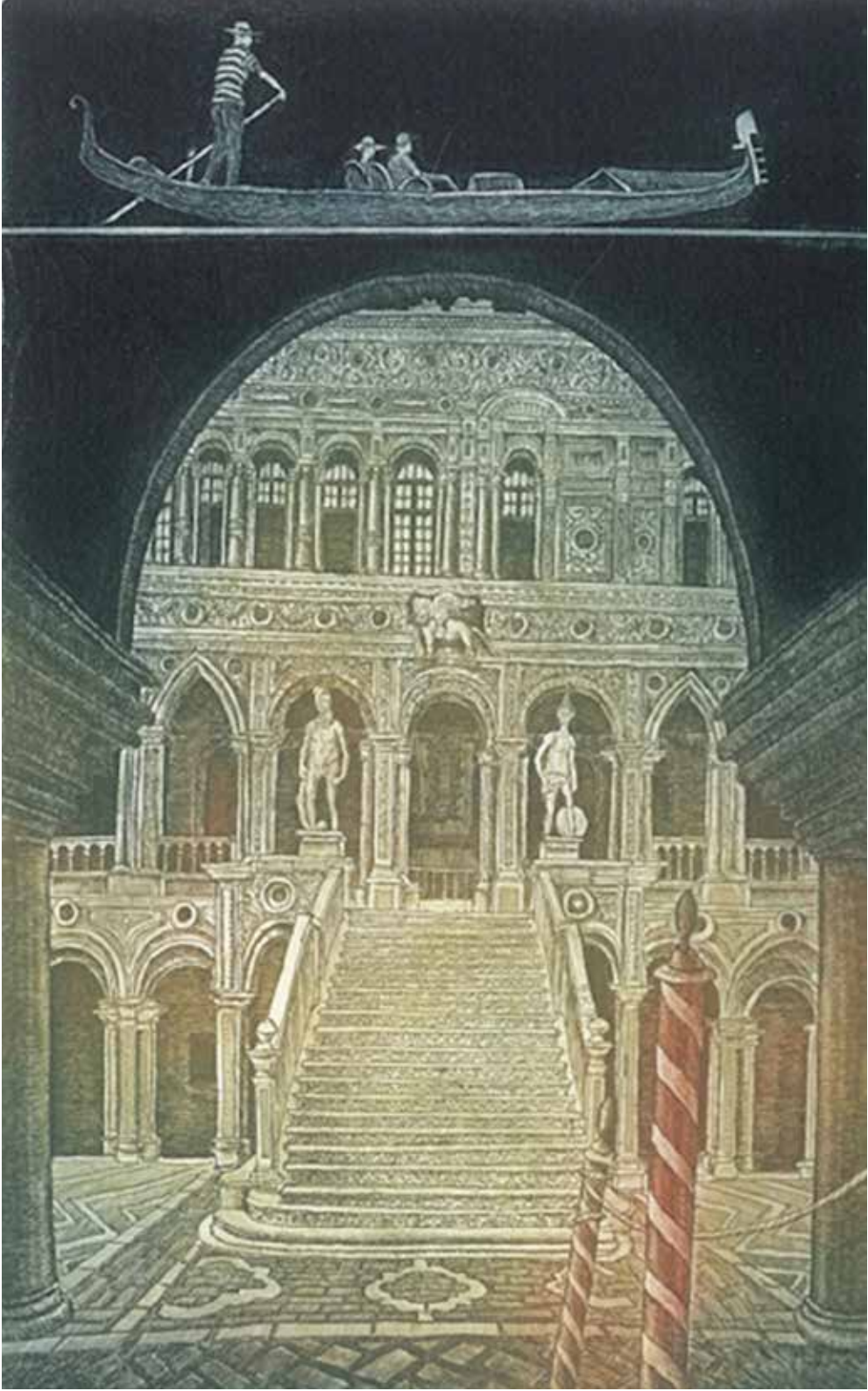




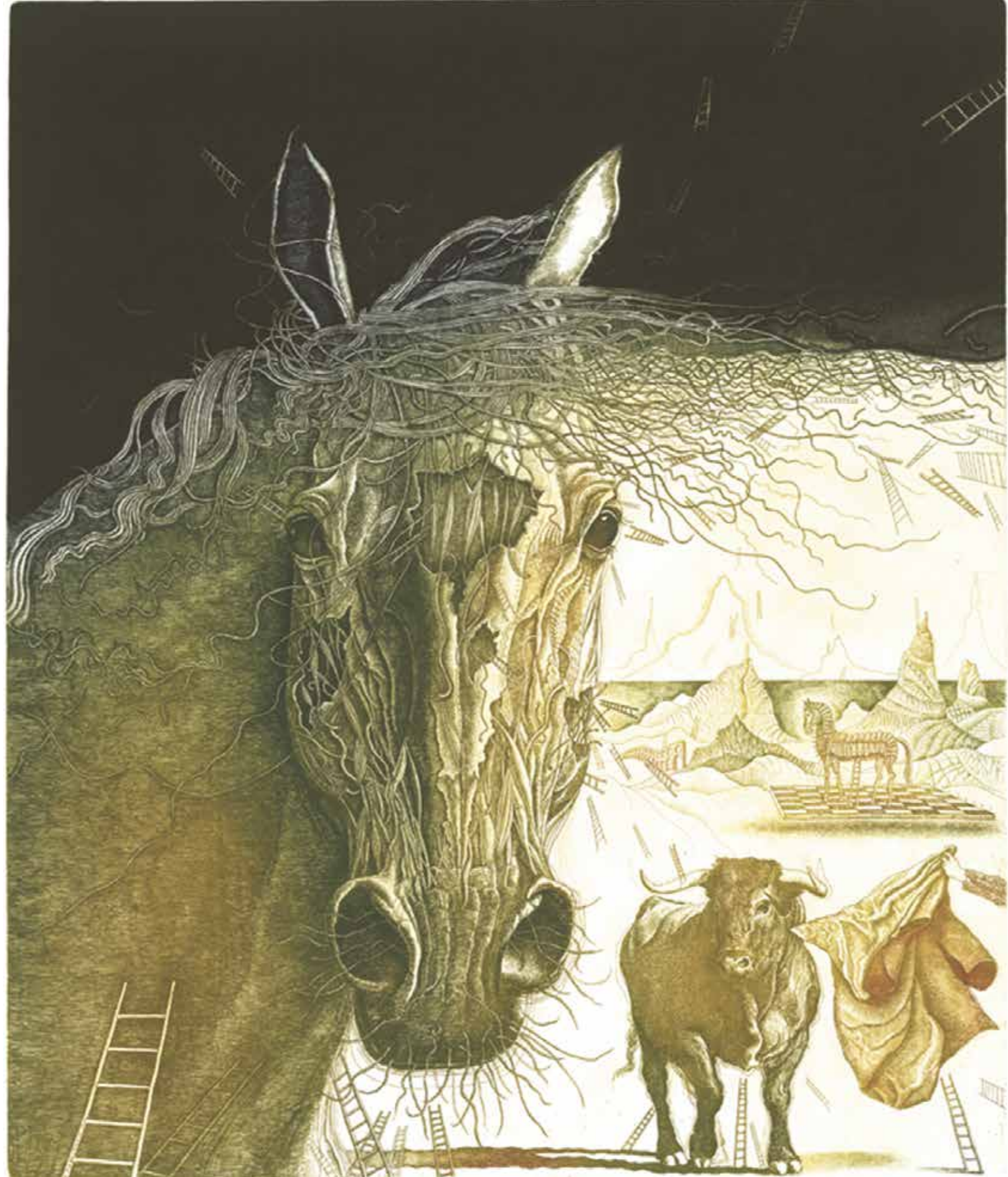
*ROME, DREAM OF A JOURNEY II*  
Etching, 25 x 32 cm. 1991



*VENETIAN RONDO*  
Etching and mezzotint, 17,5 x 11 cm. 1990







*HORSES AND DAYDREAMS I*  
Etching and mezzotint, 57 x 48 cm. 2003





*TAVROMAGIA III*  
Etching and mezzotint, 17 x 27 cm. 2006









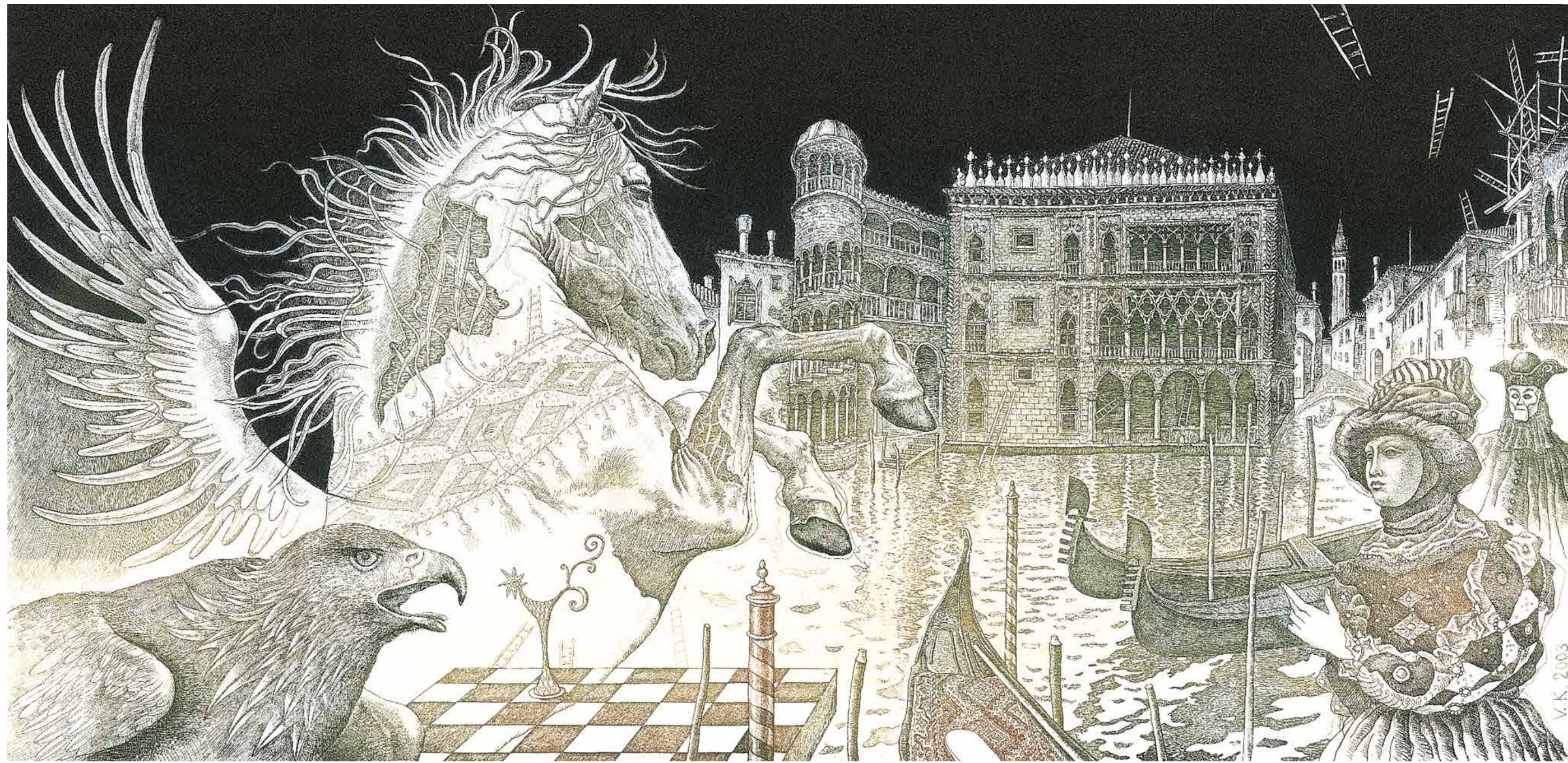
MADRID, THE GATE OF ALCALA  
Etching and mezzotint, 40 x 64 cm. 1995





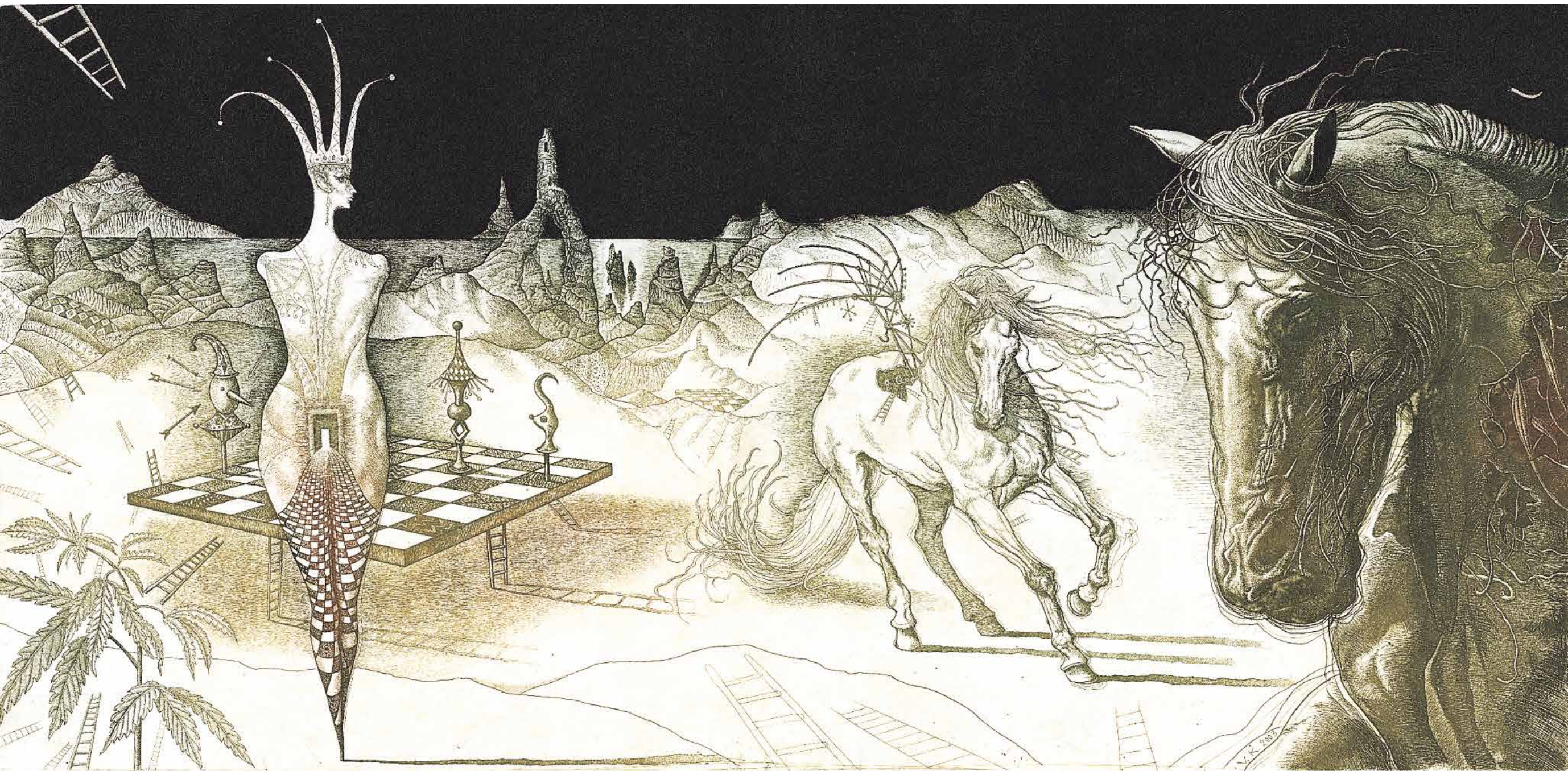
*BARCELONA, THE HOLY FAMILY*  
Etching and mezzotint, 32 x 25 cm. 1995





*HORSES AND DAYDREAMS IV*  
Etching and mezzotint, 28 x 59 cm. 2003





*HORSES AND DAYDREAMS III*  
Etching and mezzotint, 28 x 59 cm. 2003





*THE PILGRIMS ROUTE TO SANTIAGO*  
Etching and mezzotint, 46 x 62 cm.1999





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





" ... We do not appreciate what is good until we have lost it ..."

**Miguel de Cervantes**



"In artistic life creations of value always have as their base the use of the past and a recovery of ancient values which have been forgotten."

**Hermann Hesse**





This Russian icon, from the second half of the 16th century, exemplifies the Moscow school. It is traditionally placed in the iconostasis, the central focus of the Orthodox Church. From the collection of Sergei Riabushinsky.

The icon emphasises the martyrdom of Saint John, whose death was conceived as one of the signs of the sacrifice of Christ. According to the New Testament, St. John the Baptist was the son of the priest Zacharias and his wife Elizabeth who lived under the reign of the Emperor Tiberius.

He was jailed and beheaded at the request of Salome, daughter of Herodias, who was the wife of King Herod.

This icon is quite characteristic of central Russia in the 15th and 16th centuries.

From afar St. John is identified in the icons by his ascetic face and his rebellious beard, a beard which the conventional iconography always depict in standard form quite cared for, but with hanks of hair sprouting from the beard. Also, he is habitually described in the Old Testament as being bare-footed, walking in the desert and nourished by wild honey.

The Saint, named in the west John the Baptist, is known in Orthodox spheres as "The Herald" because, having baptized Christ, he also opened the way, as emphasized in Luke 1, verse 76.

At times, as indicated in this icon, John the Baptist is seen holding a manuscript which contains two fragments of his prophecies.

The icons of St. John the Baptist were specially worshipped in the monasteries or the Order of Strict Obedience, as he is the patron saint of monks.

*Erosion II, Saint John The Baptist*  
Etching and mezzotint, 41 x 32 cm. 1989



The Russian monk, Andrei Rublev, painted this icon in 1410, shortly before painting "The Trinity". From the Tretyakov Gallery of Moscow.

The highest achievement in the art of icons was attained in Russia between 1340 and 1410 with the creations of "Feofan Greek" (Teofanes the Greek, 1340-circa 1410) and Andrei Rublev.

Only Andrei Rublev (1360-1427/30), the best known painter of icons of all times, was able to match the glory of the artist of Constantinople. A great admirer of the art of Teofanes, he worked with him in the composition of icons. His artistic development was probably due to his being a monk in the Monastery of the Trinity of Zagorsk. The works of art by Rublev are not signed, like most images of the Orthodox Church's formal worship. Painters of icons sought voluntary refuge in anonymity, painting only for the glory of God.

Most of the works of art attributed to him have been refuted and only "The Trinity" is known unquestionably to be his (See Erosion VI).

Originally the icon formed part of the icon collection of the Church of Zverigorod, but at present it is in the Tretyakov Gallery, in Moscow.



*Erosion III. The Saviour*

Etching and mezzotint, 41 x 32 cm. 1989





The Royal Door, from the 15th century, is from the Church of the Birth of Our Lay at the Monastery of Snetogorsk, near Pskov (Russia). Various columns and other items are missing. There is a segment worked in silver which is original.

A great number of altars of similar construction date from the 15th and 16th centuries, in general associated with the Novgorod and Pskov Schools of Russia. The Arab motif that prevails in the design was common in Europe and the East. In Russia it appeared from ancient times, becoming especially popular towards the end of the 14th and beginning of the 15th centuries, and continued into the following century.

The origins of the theme are complex and mainly Eastern. No less complex are the semantic contents. The illustrated animals perhaps represent a protective function here.

A common characteristic of the Royal Doors (Main Altars) is the scene depicting the Annunciation and the representation of the Evangelists. The tradition of representing saints (including this same icon), has not, however, been sufficiently studied.

In the lower part of the central column there is an inscription that cannot be read here but that in effect says that the Altar was restored in 1910 by a group of icon painters under the direction of Grigory Chirikov.

If the viewers look closely, they see that this icon forms part of a garden edge, with a bird posing on top.

This work was inspired by a well known fact of Eastern block countries during the communist regime. The altars of the churches were used for various domestic uses; in some cases they served as fuel for stoves and chimneys during the winter months. In other cases they were used as materials for fences and to enclose garden areas, as this etching is showing.



This 16th century Russian icon, from the Moscow school, forms part of the collection of Alexei Morozov.

St. Demetrius was a Roman proconsul and martyr murdered for dissemination of Christianity in Thessalonica around 306. His representations are known to appear in Russia in the 11th century. Along with St. George, St. Theodore Tiron and St. Catalina of Alexandria, he figures as one of the martyrs in the Orthodox Church.

The saint was worshipped as the patron of warriors.



*Erosion X. St. Demetrius of Thessalonica*  
Etching and mezzotint, 41 x 32 cm. 1990







Valentin Kovatchev and his wife Rosario Escobar

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Valentin Kovatchev est né à Sofia en 1953.

Diplômé, en 1981, par la Faculté des Beaux-Arts de Sofia, il s'est spécialisé dans la gravure. Depuis 1992 il vit et travaille à Malaga.

Artiste, académicien, conservateur, professeur, éditeur et galeriste, il a participé à de nombreuses foires d'art et expositions internationales en Bulgarie, Japon, Grèce, Hongrie, Autriche, République Tchèque, Hollande, Russie, Etats-Unis, Allemagne, France, Luxembourg, Italie, Mexique, Colombie, Finlande, Belgique, Suisse, Grande-Bretagne, Qatar et Espagne entre autres.

Son œuvre a été reconnue et a reçu de nombreux prix au niveau national et international, actuellement elle est présente dans de nombreuses collections publiques et privées et dans des musées du monde entier.

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Valentín Kovatchev nace en Sofía en 1953.

En 1981 se gradúa en la Facultad de Bellas Artes de Sofía, especialidad de Grabado. Desde 1992 vive y trabaja en Málaga.

Artista, académico, curador, profesor, editor y galerista, ha participado en numerosas exposiciones y ferias de arte internacionales en Bulgaria, Japón, Grecia, Hungría, Austria, República Checa, Holanda, Rusia, USA, Alemania, Francia, Bélgica, Italia, Luxemburgo, México, Colombia, Finlandia, Suiza, Gran Bretaña, Qatar y España, entre otros países.

Su obra ha sido reconocida y galardonada en numerosas ocasiones y se encuentra representada en innumerables colecciones públicas, privadas y museos en todo el mundo.

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Valentin Kovatchev was born in Sophia in 1953.

In 1981 he graduated in the Faculty of Fine Arts in Sophia, specialising in engraving. Since 1992 he lives and works in Malaga.

Artist, academician, curator, professor, editor and gallery owner, has participated in numerous international art fairs and exhibitions in Bulgaria, Japan, Greece, Hungary, Austria, Czech Republic, Holland, Russia, USA, Germany, France, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Colombia, Finland, Switzerland, Great Britain, Qatar and Spain, among others countries.

His work has been recognised and awarded prizes on numerous occasions and is now presented in innumerable public and private collections and museums throughout the world.





## BIOGRAPHY

**1953** Valentin Kovatchev was born into a family of jurists and diplomats in Sophia, on 16 April. From his earliest years he showed a special interest in music and the fine arts, being remarkable his earliest drawing portraits of historical personages as Erasmus of Rotterdam, Lenin, Garibaldi, Pushkin, since he was only ten years old. Following his fifteenth birthday, led to his enrolment in Sophia's Lyceum of Fine Arts.

**1968-72** Course of studies in Lyceum of Fine Arts, Sophia.

**1972-74** Military service in Bulgaria.

**1974-75** Studied Languages and glass design in Prague.

**1975-81** Graduated in the Faculty of Fine Arts, Sophia, specialising in engraving.

**1982-88** Worked as painter and engraver in the art department of the Ministry of Defence in Sophia and gave courses in drawing and engraving in his own art studio.

**1986** Came first for the Army Painting Prize, Sophia.

**1987** Took part in "Intergraphik '87", Triennial Graphic International in Berlin.

**1988** Participated in the Graphic Biennials of Tuzla (Yugoslavia) and Lodz (Poland).

**1989** Undertook the "Suite Hermann Hesse", inspired by the German writer and composed of nine etchings and the "Suite From Birds and Men", inspired by Leonardo da Vinci and composed of five etchings. Started his "Erosion" Series, which consists of seventeen etchings of Byzantine icons. Graphic Biennials of Ljubljana (Yugoslavia) and Varna and Plovdiv (Bulgaria). Exhibitions in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Holland.

**1990** Abandoned painting in order to devote himself full-time to his own etching technique, a technique he himself was to invent after many years of research and which exercised such a fascination on the artist, as happened with the great masters, like Rembrandt, Dürer, Goya and Picasso, among others. Began a lengthy tour with his own exhibitions covering many countries, including Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Russia, Hungary, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, France, Germany, Italy, Austria and Switzerland. Participated in the Graphic Triennials of Kochi (Japan) and Frechen (Germany), being finalist in both.

**1991** Won first prize in the "II International Biennial of Graphic Art", Athens, as well as being a prize-winner in the "IV International Biennial of Graphic Art" in Wakayama, Japan. Exhibitions in Washington, London, Rome, Vienna, Hamburg, Munich, Brussels and Humboldt University in Berlin.

**1992** Finished the "Erosion" Series. Participated in EXPO '92 in Seville, at the Bulgarian Pavilion. Exhibitions in Vienna, Brussels, Rome and Capodimonte, this last being where he met his present wife, Rosario Escobar Segovia. Moved his home to Torremolinos (Malaga).

**1993** Competed in the "I National Engraving Prize" of the Madrid National Chalcography as well as in the "I Graphic Biennial" in Maastricht. He emerged as finalist in both contests. Participated with his series "Erosion" and "Anatomy of the Wild Bull" in the first exhibition of ESTAMPA (International Salon of Contemporary Engraving) in Madrid, an event that will be required in all later ESTAMPA exhibitions.

**1994** Exhibition in the Goya Museum of Engraving, and for the first time in Spain he directed an engraving course, which inaugurated the Workshop of the Goya Museum. Honourable Mention in the XLIII Autumn Salon of Seville, the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of St. Elisabeth of Hungary Participated in ESTAMPA.

**1995** Was nominated Academician Correspondent in Malaga for the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of St. Elisabeth of Hungary, Seville. Received the "British Institute Prize" in the XLIV Autumn Salon, organised by the Royal Academy of Fine Arts. Obtained First Prize in the "Andalusian Fine Arts Contest" of the Seville Athenaeum. Exhibition in Berlin. Participated in the first SIAC (International Art Fair) in Strasbourg, as well as in ARTESANTANDER and ESTAMPA. Obtained First Prize in the "VII City of Burgos Engraving Competition", Spain.

**1996** Was nominated Academician of the Senate by the International Academy of Modern Art of Rome. Obtained the Goya Silver Medal, representing Spain, in the "X Biennial of Iberoamerican Art", held in Mexico City, D.F. Gave his first lecture to the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of St. Elisabeth of Hungary, under the title "Goya, Genius of Engraving", so joining in the homage being paid this year to Goya on the 250th anniversary of the birth of this painter of genius. Exhibition of Homage to Goya by the Academicians of St. Elisabeth of Hungary in the Royal Palaces of Seville, where he presented the "Andalusian Spiritual Suite". Exhibition "Bulgarians Abroad", Foundation Kyril and Methodio, National Gallery, Sophia. This same year he turned again to drawing, a technique which, along with painting, he had put to one side for a very long time, owing, on the one hand, to the artist's personal need to express himself through the medium of engraving and, on the other, to the extraordinary recognition given to his graphic work and the high demand for exhibitions throughout the world. Obtained the First Prize for Drawing in the "I Bulls and Holidays Contest" held by Madrid City Council. Participated in the "63 Madrid Autumn Salon", where he obtained First Prize for Engraving. He also participated in ARTESANTANDER, ARTEXPO, INTERART, ESTAMPA and in the "Eleventh German International Graphic Triennial", in Frechen, where he was a finalist.

**1997** Undertook his first exhibition in the Hermann Hesse Museum, Calw (Germany), native city of the illustrious writer, and another exhibition in Bochum. Exhibition of homage to Manolete in Malaga, Cordoba and Santander. Presentation of the award-winning work in the Biennial of Iberoamerican Art and of the "Manolete Suite" in ESTAMPA, in the presence of the Princess Kalina of Bulgaria and the ambassadors of Mexico and the Republic of Bulgaria. Third Medal



in the "64 Madrid Autumn Salon". Participated in ART MULTIPLE DÜSSELDORF (International Engraving Fair), INTERNATIONAL KUNSTMESSE (International Engraving Fair), in Innsbruck and in ALMONEDA (Antiquities Fair and Art Galleries) of Madrid, where he will have a regular presence in future staging of this event.

**1998** Moved his residence to Benalmadena (Malaga), where he directs his own art studio, with courses in drawing, painting and engraving, as well as the workshop for printing graphic work. Exhibitions in the Koblenz Chamber of Commerce and in the German cities of Calw (Hesse Museum) and Frankfurt (Buchmesse). Undertook the engraving "Spiritual Andalusia, Virgin of Hope", in order to commemorate the X Anniversary of the Canonical Coronation of the Virgin, Malaga. Participated in ESTAMPA, where he presented the previous engraving, among other works, as well as in INTERART, ALMONEDA and the ROME FAIR. Invited by the Caixa Ourense to participate in the "V International Engraving Biennial", in Ourense. Received his first commission for a family portrait of the Lemberger family (Berlin).

**1999** Obtained Spanish citizenship. Awarded First Prize in the "IX Gregorio Prieto National Drawing Contest" in Valdepeñas. First Prize in the "I Felipe Orlando National Drawing Contest" in Benalmadena; and was finalist for the "Penagos Drawing Prize" in Madrid. Exhibition "For Peace" in the Hermann Hesse Museum, in Calw. Participated in the Frankfurt Buchmesse, ESTAMPA and ALMONEDA, where he presented the "Suite The Pilgrims Route to Santiago". Undertook the engraving "Obradoiro" as a commission from the multinational Volkswagen. Exhibition of Bulgarian Art in the City Museum, Madrid, related to the official invitation of their Majesties the King and the Queen of Spain to the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Mr. Peter Stoyanov. Participated with the "Suite Manolete" and the Series "Anatomy of the Wild Bull" in the travelling exhibition "Bullfighting Arts, Bulls and Bullfighters", organised by the Caixa Galicia Foundation, including works by Picasso, Caballero, Guinovart, Muñoz, Barjola, Hernandez and others. Portraits commissioned by the Bargel family (Stuttgart) and portraits of the Valenti and Porras families (Madrid).

**2000** Exhibitions in London, Helsinki and the Valdepeñas Museum. Participated in ARTEBA (Buenos Aires), FIAC CHILE (Viña del Mar), ALMONEDA and ESTAMPA, where he presented the "Suite Bacchus". Portraits commissioned by the Christensen family (Copenhagen) and the Sandholzer family (Winterthur).

**2001** Returned to painting so as to mark exhibition tribute which Malaga presented to commemorate the 120th anniversary of the universally famous Malaga artist, Pablo Ruiz Picasso. From this year onward his techniques of engraving, drawing and painting were combined in all his creations. Directed an engraving course in the CIEC Foundation (International Centre of Contemporary Print), Betanzos. Participated in the Europ Art Genève, ALMONEDA and ESTAMPA, where he presented the "Suite Picasso".

**2002** Exhibition in homage to Hermann Hesse to mark the 125th anniversary of his birth in the German cities of Calw and Bad Liebenzell. Participated in ARTESEVILLA, DEARTE, ALMONEDA and ESTAMPA, where he presented the "Suite Hesse".

**2003** Presentation of the series of oils entitled "Chess" in ALMONEDA and of the "Suite Horses and Daydreams" composed of five etchings in ESTAMPA.

**2004** Participated in DEARTE, ALMONEDA and in the "XVII Maximo Ramos Engraving Prize", Ferrol, emerging as finalist. Directed a Master of Engraving class in the CIEC Foundation. Exhibition of homage to Dali, commemorating the centenary of his birth in the Rectorate Showroom of the University of Malaga. This exposition brings together the three techniques: drawing, painting and engraving, the whole composed in two parts: the first is named "Homage to Dali", with unpublished works which include portraits of the Ampurdanian artist-genius and other compositions undertaken this year; the second part is called "Surrealism in the Work of Kovatchev", with a selection of works that cover the period from 1983 to 2003, in which is shown the spectacular change which the artist experienced by his move from Sophia to Malaga, as well as the surrealist influence converging in his Bulgarian as well as Spanish production and already latent from his earliest artistic beginnings. Presented in ESTAMPA the "Suite Dali", composed of six etchings and fifteen drawings.

**2005** In this special year that commemorates the publication of "Don Quixote of la Mancha" (1605-2005), the artist has seen another of his dreams come true, which he has already done with Hesse, Leonardo, Manolete, Picasso and Dali; that is, through his singular creations, he has interpreted and given life to the most universal work of Spanish literature and one of the most admirable creations of the human spirit. This project is named "Don Quixote with a Bulgarian soul. Homage to the figure of King Simeon of Bulgaria", to whom the artist renders, with sincere respect, a heartfelt tribute to the figure of King Simeon for uniting the human and spiritual qualities which Cervantes defended four hundred years ago. This exhibition will be presented in different cities: Madrid, Seville, Leon, Malaga, Barcelona, among others.

**2006** On the occasion of the "Nineteenth City of Leon Chess Tournament", the artist will present a new collection of works, in the exhibition hall of the Castile and Leon Regional Council, under the title "Cosmic Chess", which will complement the project "Don Quixote with a Bulgarian soul". Presentation of the series "Suite Tavromagia", composed of five etchings and inspired on the Greek Mythology in ESTAMPA.

**2007** Presentation of the series of oils entitled "The Thracian Horses" in ALMONEDA. Others portraits commissioned by the Sandholzer family (Winterthur), the Martinez-Lopez family (Madrid) and the Arias-Escobar family (Madrid). "Retrospective Exhibition, 1959-2007" at the Benalmadena Arts Centre, which will show the artist's works since he was six years old. Presentation of the unpublished graphic works by the different techniques of dry point, woodcut, lithography, etching and mezzotint, dated between 1976 and 1986.

**2008** Presentation of the series of drawings entitled "Las Meninas" in ALMONEDA, Madrid, and MARBART, Marbella.

**2009** On the fiftieth anniversary of his career, Kovatchev is presenting the "Retrospective Exhibition 1959-2009" in the Museum of the Royal House of Money in Madrid, which shows the range of the artist, since early as six years old, in this magnificent compilation which brings together one hundred and fifty works –drawings, engravings, oil paintings and matrix engraving plates. To mark the IV Centenary of the blessing of the image of Jesus Nazareno del Paso in the city of Malaga, its Royal Archconfraternity has commissioned an engraving to commemorate the historical event. The artist makes a drawing and an engraving, which will be presented in the "Retrospective Exhibition 1959-2009" that is to take place in Malaga. Afterwards, the same

exhibition will be staged in the Cortijo Miraflores Museum in Marbella. "The Great Masters of Contemporary Engraving" is an international exhibition Organized by the Embassy of Spain in Colombia, which will be staged in the Catholic Kings Cultural Centre and in the National Museum of Colombia. Participates in the Exhibition "Passion for Art" in Doha (Qatar). Preparation has begun for the project "Da Vinci, touched by the falcon".

**2010** Exhibition "Passion for Malaga" in which the artist through his art creates a sisterhood for Malaga, Santiago de Compostela and Rome as symbols of spirituality and pilgrimage. Participation in ALMONEDA and in the first edition of ARTEBILBAO with the new oil painting collection named "Robotikas".

**2011** Participates in the Caja Granada Collection exhibition "Prints, graphic art", where is side by side with works by Munch, Kandinsky, Warhol, Picasso, Christo, Miro and Chillida, among others, at the Benalmadena Exhibition Centre. For the world premier of Alejandro Casona's "Lady of the Dawn" translated into English by Donald B. Gibbs and directed by Roberta G. Aaron, he presents an oil painting that represents the main character of the Play and is the front page of the Playbill. For this event which takes place at the Palace of Fairs and Congresses of Marbella as well as an exceptional solo exhibition dedicated to "Lady of the Dawn" with a selection of works dedicated to women in History and during his life long venture in the world of Art. Presentation of the new series of oils entitled "Matador" and "Sibyl and the horse" in ALMONEDA, Madrid. Preparation has begun for the exhibition "Two souls, one essence" commemorating the centenary of the diplomatic relationship between Spain and Bulgaria, which will be staged at the Palace of the Madraza in Granada and at the Rectorate Showroom of the University of Malaga. Participates in ARTEBILBAO with the new etching "Virgen de Begoña" and the new oil painting collection of miniatures named "Guggenheim I to XVI", among other works.

**2012** Presents a selection of his latest creations in oil painting and engraving in the Alfican Art Gallery, in Brussels, after two decades of his last exhibition in the European capital city. This collective exhibition is organized by the Atelier Las Meninas and supported by the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Kingdom of Belgium. Participates in KUNSTART'12, Biennial Art Fair. BOLZANO FAIR, Italy. Exhibition "20 years in Malaga" in the Benedito Art Gallery, in which the artist celebrates his twentieth anniversary of living and creating in Malaga. Participates in AAF HAMBURG.

**2013** Participates in AAF BRUSSELS. Presents a selection of his latest works in the solo exhibition "Metaphysical Spaces" in the Alfican Art Gallery, in Brussels, this exhibition is supported by the Embassy of the Rep. of Bulgaria in the Kingdom of Belgium. Participates in ALMONEDA, Antiques and Art Galleries Fair, Madrid.

**2014** Participates in ALMONEDA, Antiques and Art Galleries Fair, Madrid. Participates in DONOSTIARTEAN ART FAIR, I International Fair of Contemporary Art, Kursaal Congress Centre, San Sebastian. Presents the solo exhibition "Metamorphosis" in the Alfican Gallery in Brussels, this show is supported by the Embassy of the Rep. of Bulgaria in the Kingdom of Belgium.

After many years of research and experimentation, he has invented his own technique of engraving and etching; on the one hand, it is the engraving of the original metal sheet with a fine simple sewing needle, and, on the other, a solution of nitric acid and water, which allows him to submerge the zinc plates in that solution, no less than forty to sixty times. It is through his complex process of precision drawing directly on metal, with its different gradations of acid "bites", that his engravings acquire their distinct rank of uniqueness.

Furthermore, it should be added that he never makes any sketch or drawing in advance of his engravings, nor of any of his other works, since he always works directly on to the metal plate, which shows the complexity and high degree of perfection and mastery achieved in his graphic work.

Engraving on the metal plates as well as the publication of this extensive graphic work is carried out by the same artist in his studio; which not only distinguishes him but guarantees the number of each work's pieces existing in the market and their quality.

Not only does he carry out the printing personally, but he conserves its pure essence, using nothing but his own hands.

His work has been recognised and awarded prizes nationally and internationally on numerous occasions and is now presented in innumerable public and private collections throughout the world.

## MAIN ONE-MAN SHOWS

<b>1987</b>	Army Showroom. Sophia, Bulgaria. Provincial Museum of Fine Arts. Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria.	<b>2002</b>	ARTESEVILLA, Spain. ALMONEDA. Madrid, Spain.
<b>1989</b>	UNESCO. Paris, France. L'entrée des Artistes Gallery. Barbizon, France. Les Halles Gallery. Paris, France.		"Hermann Hesse Jahr 2002". Reaktions-Bild. Landratsamt Calw, Germany.
<b>1990</b>	Bavarian-Bulgarian Bank. Munich, Germany.		"Hermann Hesse und Pablo Picasso". Parksaal des Kurhauses. Bad Liebenzell, Germany. EKUMENE. Madrid, Spain.
<b>1991</b>	Vigny Gallery. Munich, Germany. Echancre Gallery. Brussels, Belgium.	<b>2003</b>	"Chess" ALMONEDA, and "Horses and Daydreams" ESTAMPA, Madrid, Spain.
<b>1992</b>	L'angle Aigu Gallery. Brussels, Belgium.	<b>2004</b>	"Homage to Dali". Rectorate Showroom. University of Malaga, Spain.
<b>1993</b>	Cartel Gallery. Granada, Spain. Porticvs Gallery. Malaga, Spain.	<b>2005</b>	Advance exhibition of "Don Quixote with a Bulgarian soul. Homage to King Simeon of Bulgaria". ALMONEDA. Madrid, Spain.
<b>1994</b>	Goya Museum of Engraving. Fuendetodos, Spain. Tudores Gallery. Puerto Banus, Spain.		Presentation of the exhibition "Don Quixote with a Bulgarian soul. Homage to King Simeon of Bulgaria". ESTAMPA, Madrid, Spain.
	Post Office Exhibition Centre. Torremolinos, Spain.	<b>2006</b>	"Cosmic Chess". Castile and Leon Regional Council, Leon, Spain.
<b>1995</b>	Bremer Gallery. Berlin, Germany. Santiago Casar Gallery. Santander, Spain.	<b>2007</b>	"The Thracian Horses". ALMONEDA, Madrid, Spain. "Retrospective Exhibition, 1959-2007", Benalmadena Arts Centre. Spain.
<b>1996</b>	Baron de San Carlos Gallery. Llanes, Spain. "Círculo Católico" Showroom, Burgos, Spain.	<b>2008</b>	"Las Meninas", ALMONEDA, Madrid and MARB ART, Marbella, Spain.
<b>1997</b>	"Homage to Hermann Hesse". Hermann Hesse Museum. Calw, Germany.	<b>2009</b>	"Retrospective Exhibition 1959-2009". Museum of the Royal House of Money, Madrid, Spain.
	"Homage to Manolete", Episcopal Palace of Cordoba and Cajamar Showroom. Malaga, Spain.		"Retrospective Exhibition 1959-2009". Cortijo Miraflores Museum, Marbella, Spain.
	Perspective Art Gallery. Bochum, Germany.	<b>2010</b>	"Passion for Malaga", Sala Noble Showroom, Malaga, Spain. ALMONEDA, Madrid. "Robotikas", ARTEBILBAO, Spain.
<b>1998</b>	Aula. Calw, Germany. ARCALE. Salamanca, Spain. "50th Book Fair". Frankfurt, Germany.	<b>2011</b>	"Lady of the Dawn", Palace of Fairs and Congresses, Marbella, Spain. "Large format Works", ALMONEDA, Madrid. "Two souls, one essence", Centenary of the diplomatic relations between Spain and Bulgaria. Rectorate Showroom. University of Malaga, Spain.
	Perspective Art Gallery. Bochum, Germany.	<b>2012</b>	"20 years in Malaga", Benedito Art Gallery, Malaga, Spain.
<b>1999</b>	"For the Peace". Hermann Hesse Museum. Calw, Germany. ALMONEDA. Madrid, Spain.	<b>2013</b>	"Metaphysical Spaces", Alfican Art Gallery, Brussels.
	"51st Book Fair". Frankfurt, Germany. Town Hall, Torremolinos, Spain.	<b>2014</b>	"Metamorphosis". Alfican Art Gallery, Brussels.
<b>2000</b>	Coningsby Gallery. London, England. Oljemak Gallery. Helsinki, Finland.		
	Museum of Valdepeñas, Spain. Armaga Gallery. Leon, Spain.		
<b>2001</b>	Europ'Art Genève, Switzerland. ALMONEDA. Madrid, Spain. Museum-Foundation CIEC. Betanzos, Spain.		
	"Picasso, 120th Anniversary". Cajamar Showroom. Malaga, Spain.		

## PRIZES AND DISTINCTIONS

<b>1986</b>	First Prize "Army Painting Award". Sophia, Bulgaria.	<b>1997</b>	First Prize of Drawing at the "I Bulls ans Festivities Award". Madrid, Spain.
<b>1990</b>	Finalist at the "International Triennial of Graphic Art", Kochi, Japan.		Third Medal at the "64 Autumn Exhibition". Madrid, Spain.
<b>1991</b>	First Prize at the "II International Biennial of Graphic Art". Athens, Greece.	<b>1999</b>	First Prize at the "I National Drawing Award Felipe Orlando". Benalmadena Town Hall, Spain.
	Awarded at the "IV International Biennial of Graphic Art". Wakayama, Japan.		Finalist at the "Penagos Drawing Award". Madrid, Spain.
<b>1993</b>	Finalist at the "I National Engraving Prize", National Chalcography, Madrid, Spain.		First Prize at the "IX National Drawing Award Gregorio Prieto". Valdepeñas, Spain.
<b>1994</b>	Honourable Mention at the XLIII Autumn Exhibition. Royal Academy of Fine Arts of Saint Elisabeth of Hungary. Seville, Spain.	<b>2002</b>	Finalist at the "Penagos Drawing Award". Madrid, Spain.
<b>1995</b>	First Prize of Engraving in the Andalusian Fine Arts Competition. Athenaeum of Seville, Spain.	<b>2004</b>	Finalist at the "XVII Engraving Award Maximo Ramos". Ferrol, Spain.
	Second Prize at the "IV Exhibition of Engraving and Drawing". Madrid, Spain.		
	Prize "British Institute of Seville". XLIV Autumn Exhibition.		
	Royal Academy of Fine Arts of Saint Elisabeth of Hungary. Seville, Spain.		
	First Prize in the "VII City of Burgos Engraving Competition", Spain.		
	He was appointed as Corresponding Academician in Malaga by the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of Saint Elisabeth of Hungary. Seville, Spain.		
<b>1996</b>	He was appointed as Senate Academician by the International Academy of Modern Art, Rome, Italy.		
	Accesit and Goya Silver Medal at the "X Latin-American Biennial of Art", 250 Anniversary Francisco de Goya. México D.F.		
	First Prize at the "V Exhibition of Engraving and Drawing". Madrid, Spain.		
	Finalist at the "11. Deutsche Internationale Grafik-Triennale", Frechen, Germany.		



## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS AND MUSEUMS

National Gallery. Sophia, Bulgaria.

Provincial Museum of Art. Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria.

Provincial Museum of Art. Plovdiv, Bulgaria.

Provincial Museum of Art. Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria.

Provincial Museum of Art. Haskovo, Bulgaria.

Provincial Museum of Art. Varna, Bulgaria.

Municipal Library. New York, USA.

Museum of Modern Art. Wakayama, Japan.

Nakatoso Art Centre. Kochi, Japan.

Art Centre. Athens, Greece.

Provincial Museum. Orense, Spain.

Fuengirola Town Hall, Spain.

Torremolinos Town Hall, Spain.

SEK Foundation. Madrid, Spain.

National Library. Madrid, Spain.

Goya Museum of Engraving. Fuendetodos, Spain.

International Museum Ex Libris. Maastricht, Holland.

Tama Art Museum. Tokio, Japan.

"Saint George" Bulgarian Orthodox Church. Los Angeles, USA.

Museum of Contemporary Art. Ibiza, Spain.

Athenaeum of Seville, Spain.

Racam Etruscan Museum. Capodimonte, Italy.

British Institute of Seville, Spain.

Spanish Tourism Office. Brussels, Belgium.

Burgos Town Hall, Spain.

French Tourism Office. Strassbourg, France.

Royal Academy of Fine Arts St. Elisabeth of Hungary. Seville, Spain.

Spanish Contemporary Museum of Engraving. Marbella, Spain.

International Academy of Modern Art. Rome, Italy.

Foundation Kyril and Methodio. National Gallery. Sophia, Bulgaria.

Bullfighting Museum. Santander, Spain.

Royal Archconfraternity Jesus N. del Paso and M. Sta. de la Esperanza.

Malaga, Spain.

Museum of Nrta. Sra. de Araceli. Lucena, Spain.

Caja Rural Saving Bank of Malaga, Spain.

Museum Hermann Hesse. Calw, Germany.

Stadt Calw, Germany.

Benalmadena Town Hall, Spain.

Ministry of Agriculture. Berlin, Germany.

Museum-Foundation Gregorio Prieto. Valdepeñas, Spain.

Museum-Foundation CIEC. Betanzos, Spain.

Stadt Bad Liebenzell, Germany.

Museum of St. John of the Cross. Ubeda, Spain.

University of Malaga, Spain.

Malaga Foundation, Spain.

Ministry of Culture. Madrid, Spain.

Caja Granada Saving Bank, Granada, Spain.

Malaga Town Hall, Spain.

Embassy of Bulgaria. Madrid, Spain.

Embassy of Bulgaria, Vienna, Austria.

Foundation Vasarely. Aix-en-Provence. France.

Royal Palace of Windsor. United Kingdom.

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





"It is worth in art what is timeless, not trendy."

**Hermann Hesse**

VK



Ambassade de la République de  
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