



VALENTÍN KOVATCHEV

QUEENS AND GODDESSES

# VALENTÍN KOVATCHEV

QUEENS AND GODDESSES  
REINES ET DÉESSES  
REINAS Y DIOSAS

Drawing | Etching | Painting | Portrait

---

## BRUXELLES

1 April - 15 May 2015

**VK Fine Art  
SABLON**

43, Rue Lebeou  
Gsm. +34 609 58 00 55

Open Tuesday to Sunday from 11h to 19h. Guided visit

**Vernissage: Saturday 11 April at 12 noon  
Avec la présence de Katja Katanova au violon**



Ambassade de la République de  
Bulgarie au Royaume de Belgique

It is a particular privilege to be part of a great tradition. And this is precisely what the displays of the outstanding Bulgarian-Spanish artist Valentin Kovatchev in Brussels have become. For a third consecutive year the Bulgarian Embassy and I personally have the pleasure to present his work.

After “Metaphysical spaces” and “Metamorphosis” this year Mr. Kovatchev treats us to another collection of his drawings, etchings, paintings and portraits. Brought together under the title of “Queens and Goddesses”, they are as ever exquisite and captivating. It is, in the artist’s own words, “a kind of a personal tribute to the figure of women, be they queens, mothers, sisters, friends or goddesses... their essence remains the same”. And they, I would add, will always be a source of inspiration.

The present exhibition has an additional attraction. It has a didactic aspect and offers us a look into Valentin Kovatchev’s etching technique which he uses with such perfection and to international acclaim. Visitors will see the stages of the graphic

process -the preparation, engraving and stamping of the zinc plate. This will bring us all closer to the enchanting world of engraving that has fascinated the great Masters since the 15<sup>TH</sup> Century to the present day. It will also highlight the relationship between engraving as an art form, its discovery and application in the course of the centuries in the context of technological advances.

I would like to use the occasion to draw your attention to the exhibition FASHION ART EU in which Mr. Kovatchev is representing Bulgaria. It was inaugurated by Sylvie Guillaume, Vice President of European Parliament, in November 2014, and will be on display in the Parliamentarium (the European Parliament’s Visitors’ Centre) until the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2015.

As always, my thanks go to all those who have helped with making this wonderful event possible.

Enjoy the art of Valentin Kovatchev and let us keep up the great tradition!

---

**Vesselin Valkanov**

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

Être part d'une importante tradition est un grand privilège. C'est exactement cela ce que les expositions du renommé artiste bulgaro-espagnol Valentin Kovatchev ont devenu. Pour la troisième année de suite, l'ambassade bulgare et moi-même avons le plaisir de présenter son œuvre.

Après "Metaphysical spaces" et "Metamorphosis", cette année M. Kovatchev nous offre une nouvelle collection de dessins, gravures, peintures et portraits. Réunis sous le titre «Reines et Déesses», ses œuvres sont toujours exquises et charmantes. Suivant les mots de l'artiste lui-même, «c'est une espèce d'hommage personnel à la femme, soit elle une reine, une mère, une sœur, une amie ou une déesse... son essence reste la même». Et j'ajouterais qu'elle est toujours une source d'inspiration.

Cette exposition comporte un attrait supplémentaire: un volet didactique qui nous permet de voir de près la technique de gravure de Valentin Kovatchev, qu'il maîtrise parfaitement et qui est internationalement reconnue. Les visiteurs verront les différen-

tes étapes du processus graphique –la préparation, la gravure et l'estampage de la plaque métallique. Tout ceci nous rapprochera de l'environnement magique des gravures qui ont fasciné les grands maîtres depuis le XVème siècle jusqu'à aujourd'hui. Ceci mettra en valeur le rapport entre la gravure en tant que forme d'art, sa découverte ainsi que son utilisation au fil des siècles dans le contexte du progrès technologique.

Je souhaiterais profiter de cette occasion pour attirer votre attention sur l'exposition FASHION ART EU à laquelle M. Kovatchev représente la Bulgarie. Elle était inaugurée par Mme Sylvie Guillaume, Vice-Présidente du Parlement Européen, en novembre 2014, et elle est toujours au Parliamentarium (le centre des visiteurs du Parlement européen) jusqu'au 15 mai 2015.

Comme d'habitude, je remercie tous ceux qui ont contribué à ce que cet événement ait été possible.

Je vous invite à profiter de l'art de Valentin Kovatchev ainsi qu'à maintenir cette importante tradition.

---

**Vesselin Valkanov**

Ambassadeur de la République de Bulgarie  
auprès du Royaume de Belgique et du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg

Es un privilegio especial formar parte de una gran tradición. Y esto es precisamente en lo que se ha convertido la exposición del excepcional artista búlgaro-español Valentín Kovatchev en Bruselas. Por tercer año consecutivo la Embajada de Bulgaria y yo personalmente tenemos el placer de presentar su obra.

Después de “Espacios metafísicos” y “Metamorfosis”, este año el Sr. Kovatchev nos invita a otra colección de sus dibujos, grabados, pinturas y retratos, reunidos bajo el nombre de “Reinas y Diosas” son, como siempre, exquisitos y cautivadores. Es, en propias palabras del artista, “una especie de entrañable homenaje a la figura de la mujer, ya sean reinas, madres, hermanas, amigas o diosas ... su esencia es la misma”. Y yo añadiría que ellas siempre serán una fuente de inspiración.

La presente exposición aporta un atractivo adicional. Tiene un aspecto didáctico que nos ofrece la posibilidad de examinar la técnica al aguafuerte de Valentín Kovatchev que ejecuta con tal perfección como reconocimiento internacional.

Los visitantes podrán ver las etapas del proceso gráfico de la preparación, grabación y estampación de la plancha de zinc. Esto nos adentrará a todos en el mágico mundo del grabado que ha fascinado a los grandes Maestros desde el siglo XV hasta nuestros días. También pondrá de relieve la relación del grabado, como disciplina artística, su descubrimiento y aplicación en el transcurso de los siglos, en el contexto de los avances tecnológicos.

Me gustaría aprovechar la ocasión para llamar su atención sobre la muestra FASHION ART UE en la que el Sr. Kovatchev está representando a Bulgaria y que fue inaugurada por Sylvie Guillaume, Vicepresidente del Parlamento Europeo, el pasado noviembre de 2014 y que estará expuesta en el Parlamentarium (Centro de Visitas del Parlamento Europeo) hasta el 15 de mayo de 2015.

Como siempre, mi agradecimiento a todos los que han colaborado para hacer posible este maravilloso evento.

Disfruten del arte de Valentín Kovatchev y permítannos continuar con la gran tradición!

---

**Vesselin Valkanov**

Embajador de la República de Bulgaria  
para el Reino de Bélgica y el Gran Ducado de Luxemburgo

---

QUEENS  
REINES  
REINAS



**“A good portrait is a painted biography”**

**“Un bon portrait est une biographie peinte”**

**“Un buen retrato es una biografía pintada”**

**Anatole France**



QUEEN FABIOLA  
*Painting in progress*



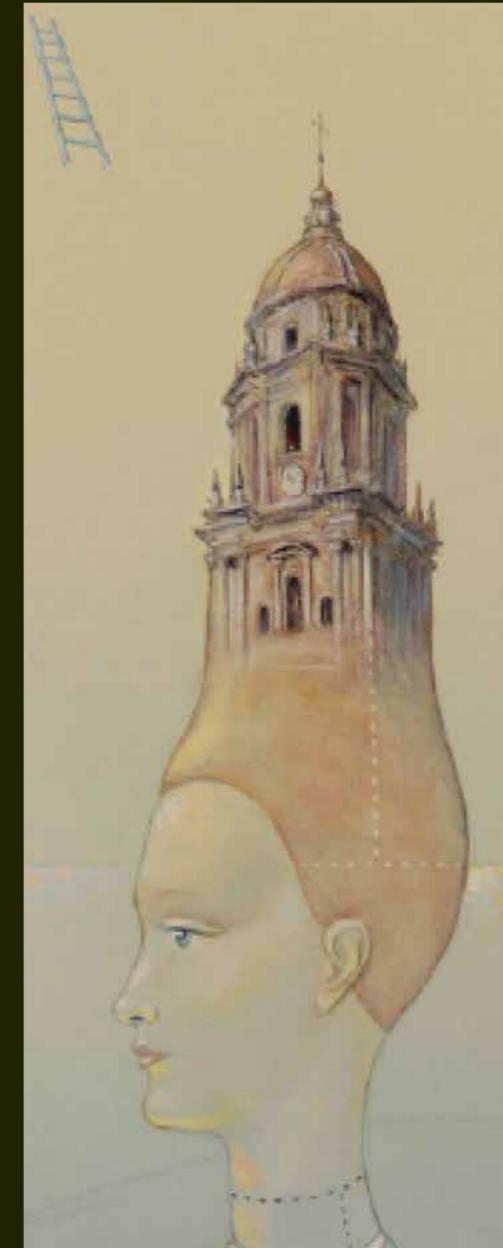
QUEEN FABIOLA  
*Oil on canvas, 55 x 73 cm. 2015*

**“False face must hide what the false heart doth know.  
The eyes speak the language of the heart”**

**“Les mots sont remplis de mensonge ou d’art;  
le regard est la langue du cœur”**

**“Las palabras están llenas de falsedad o de arte;  
la mirada es el lenguaje del corazón”**

**William Shakespeare**





## QUEEN ELIZABETH II

*Painting in progress*



## QUEEN ELIZABETH II AND THE RIVER OF LIFE

*Oil and graphite on canvas, 55 x 73 cm. 2013*

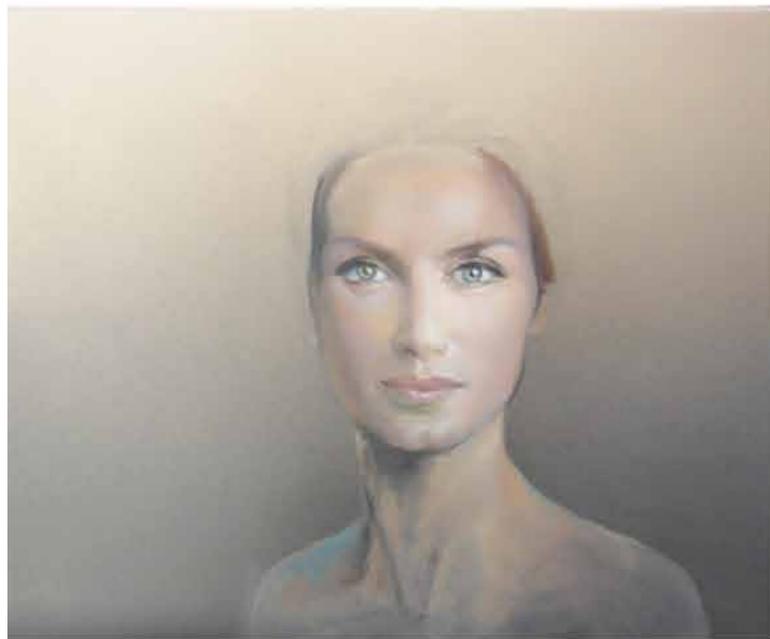


**“Physical beauty is often an indication of a beautiful soul”**

**“La beauté du corps est souvent l’indice de la beauté de l’âme”**

**“La belleza del cuerpo muchas veces es indicio de la hermosura del alma”**

**Miguel de Cervantes**



QUEEN LETIZIA

*Painting in progress*



QUEEN LETIZIA

*Oil on canvas, 38 x 46 cm. 2015*

---

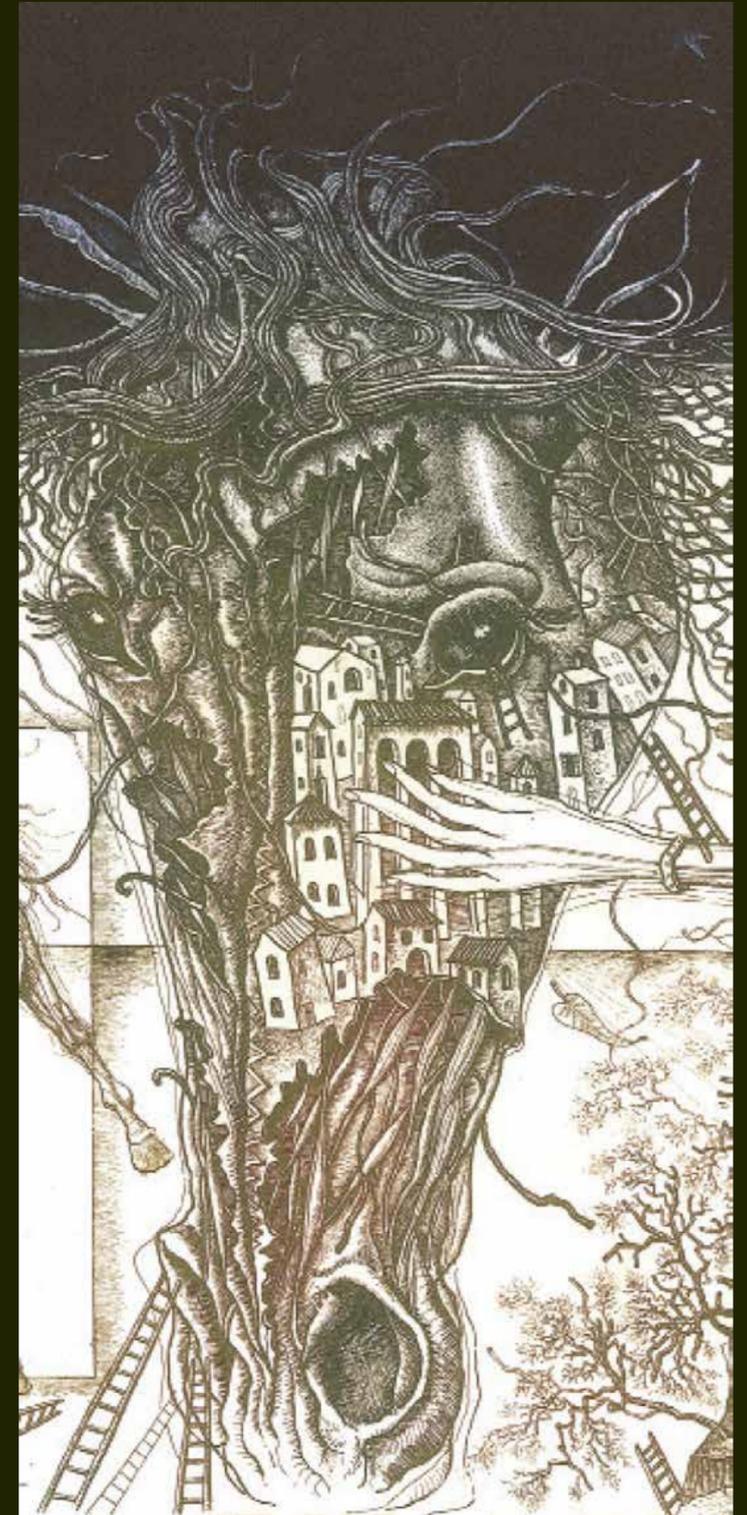
GODDESSES  
DÉESSES  
DIOSAS

**“Art is the pleasure of a spirit that enters  
in Nature and discovers that she too has a soul”**

**“L’art est le plaisir d’un esprit qui pénètre  
dans la nature et découvre qu’elle aussi a une âme”**

**“El arte es el placer de un espíritu que penetra  
en la naturaleza y descubre que también ésta tiene alma”**

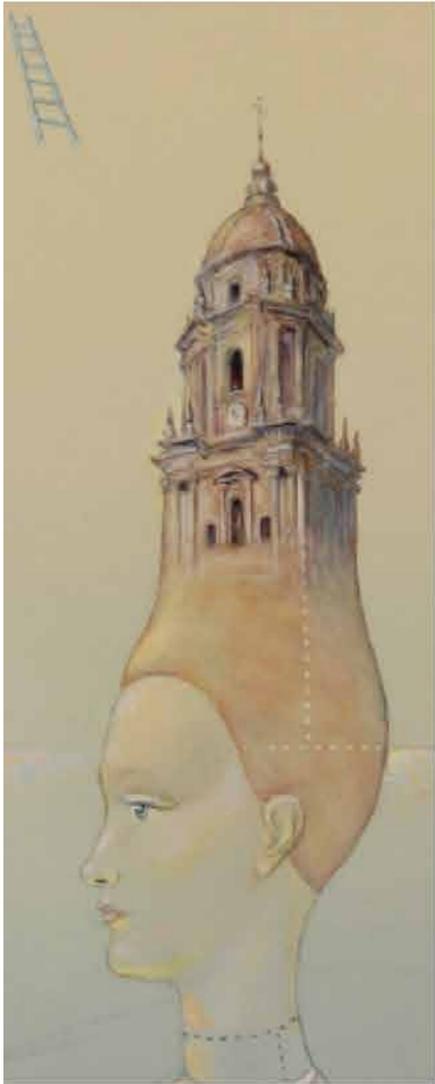
Auguste Rodin



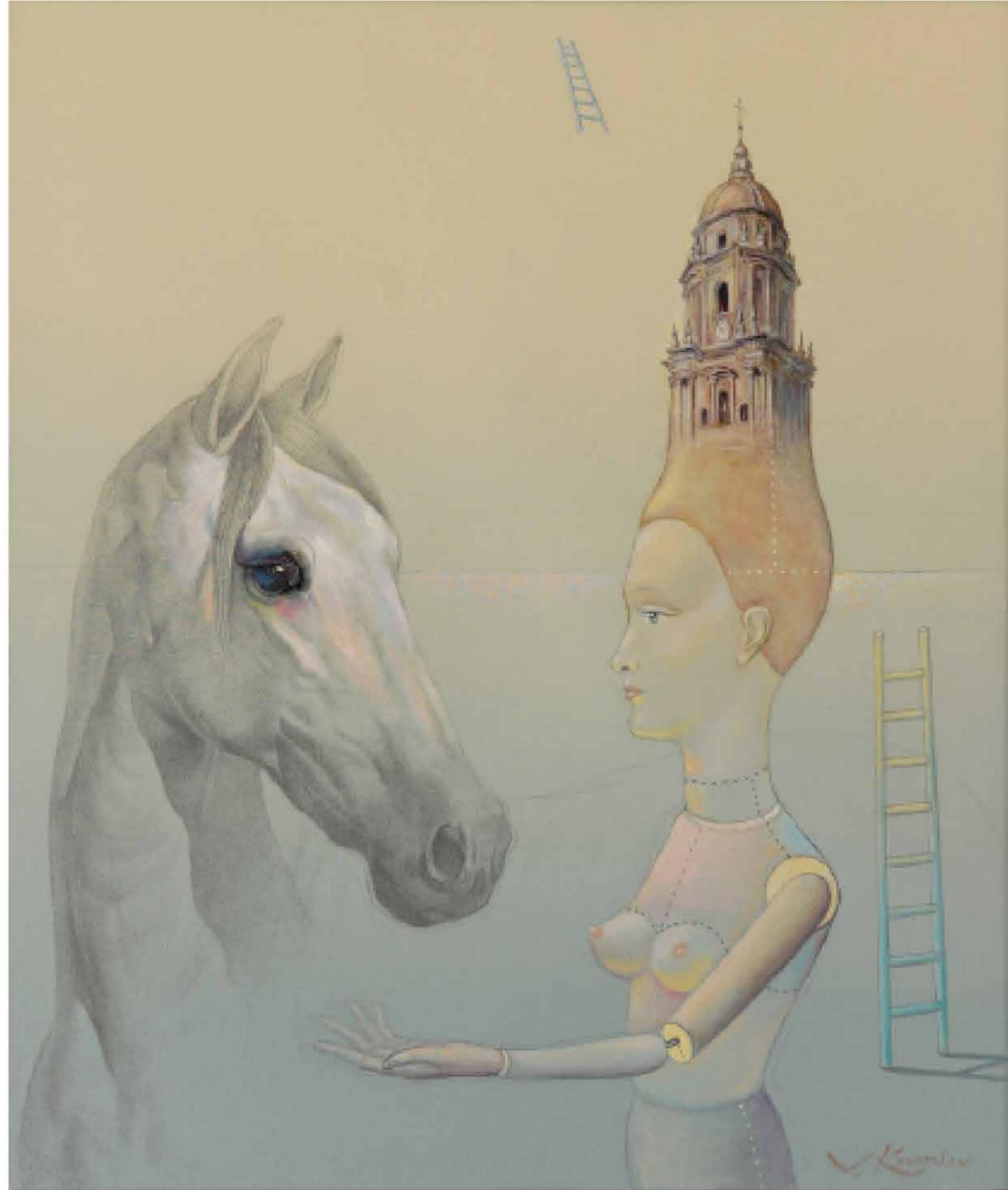


LADY WITH THE PEARL

*Oil on canvas, 97 x 130 cm. 2009*



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



*Kennel*



**THE ENCHANTED ARCHWAY**  
*Oil on canvas, 89 x 116 cm. 2004*



**“Music is the harmony between heaven and earth”**

**“La musique est l’harmonie du ciel et de la terre”**

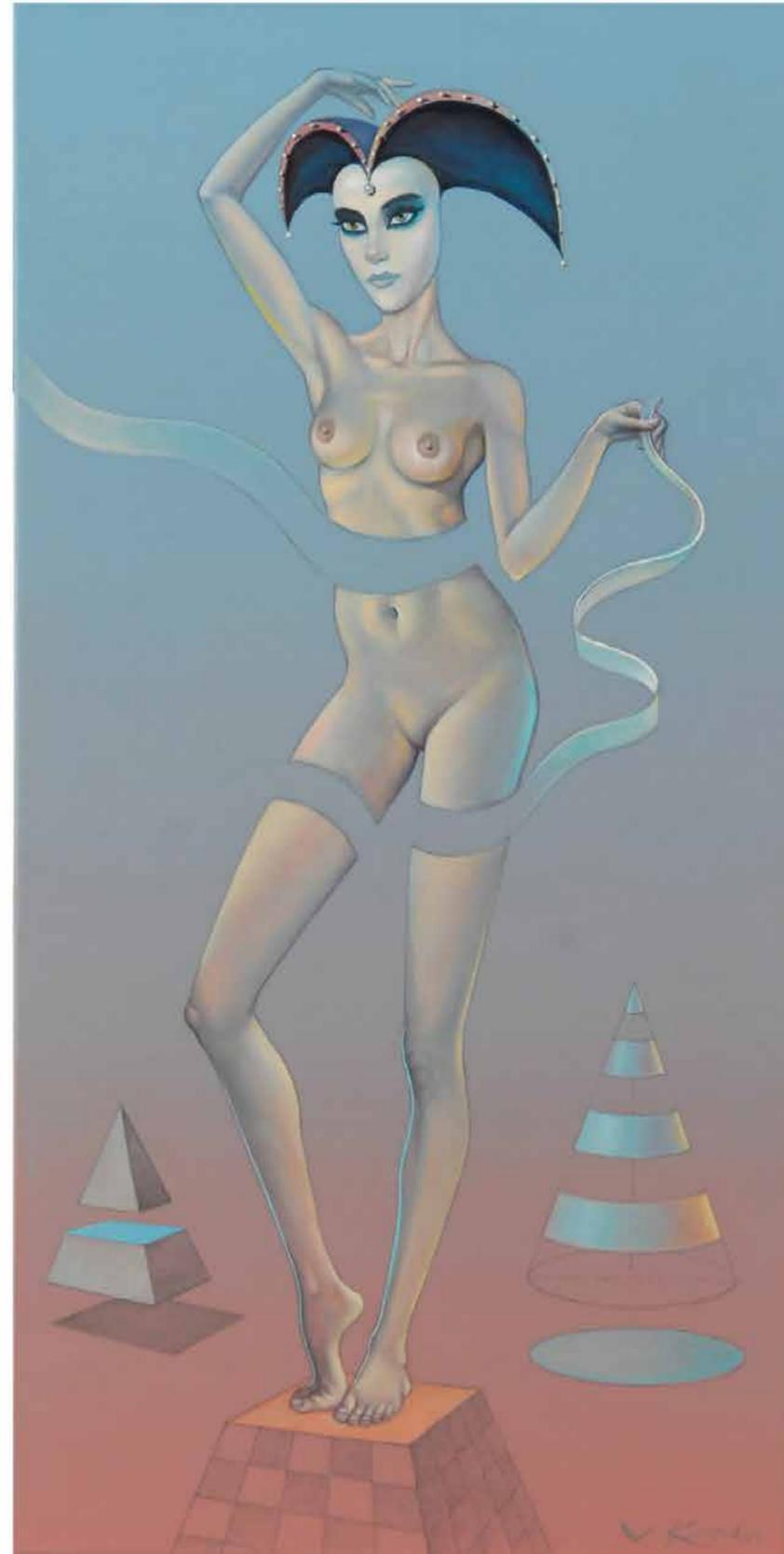
**“La música es la armonía del cielo y de la tierra”**

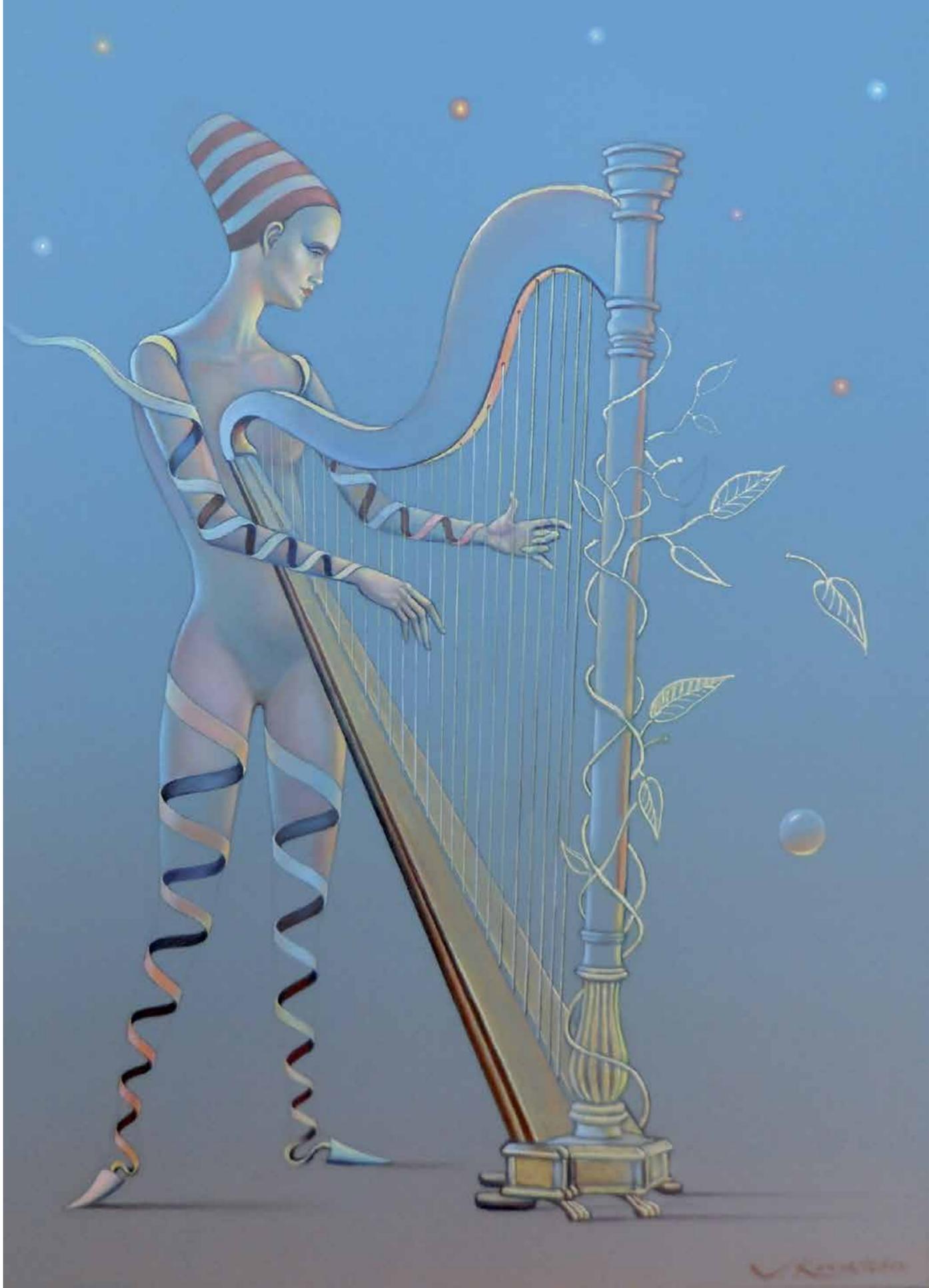
Yuel-Ji



DANCE OF THE MASKS III AND IV

*Oil on canvas, 100 x 50 cm. 2014*





**HARPIST IN BLUE**  
*Oil on canvas, 92 x 65 cm. 2015*

SAXOPHONIST IN BLUE

*Oil on canvas, 92 x 65 cm. 2015*





**FLAUTIST IN BLUE**

*Oil on canvas, 92 x 65 cm. 2015*



THE ROSE OF THE DESERT  
*Oil on canvas, 97 x 130 cm. 2009*



**LADY OF THE DAWN**

*Oil on canvas, 81 x 100 cm. 2009*

**ROBOTIKAS I**

*Oil on canvas, 81 x 100 cm. 2010*



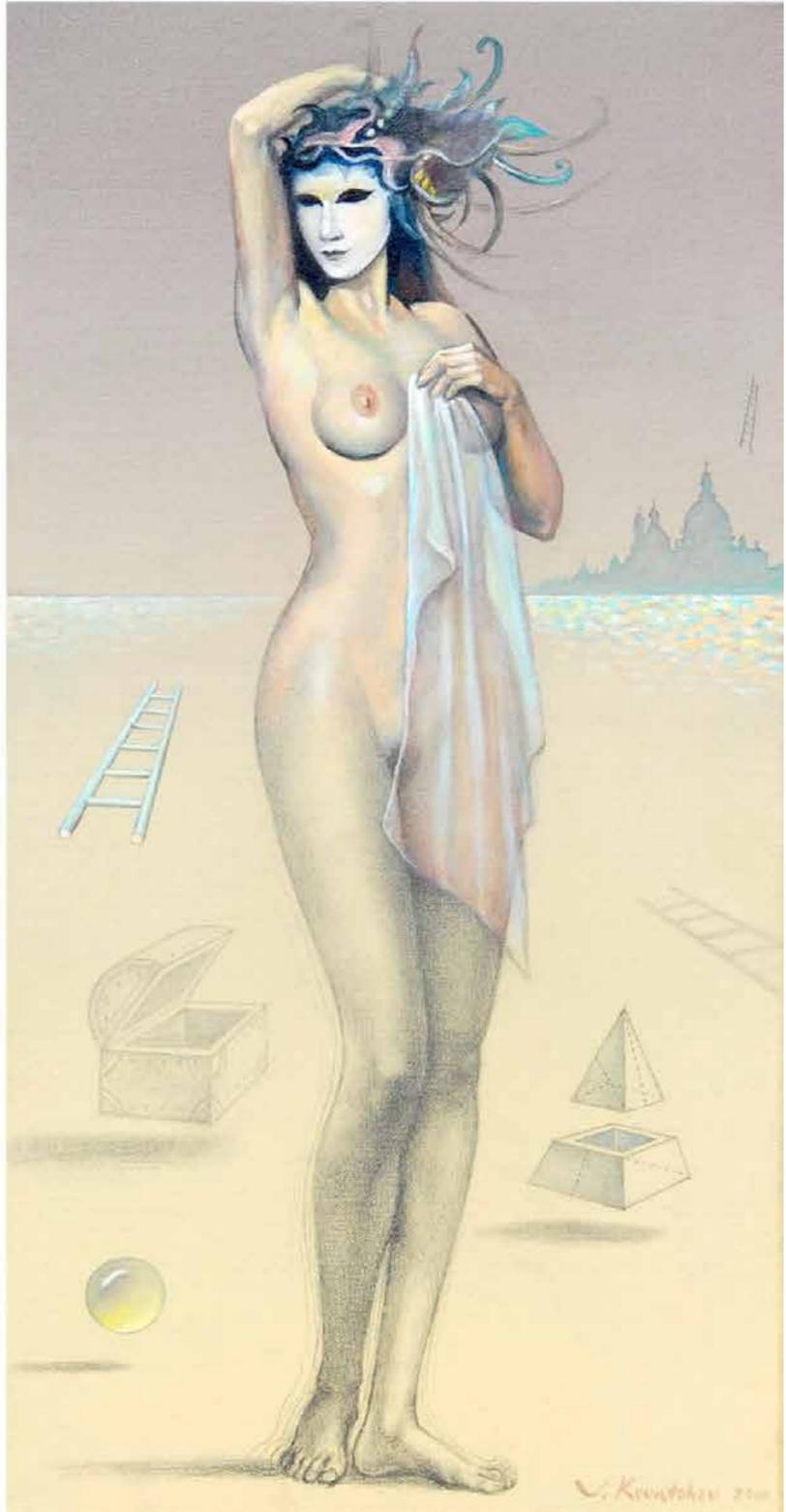
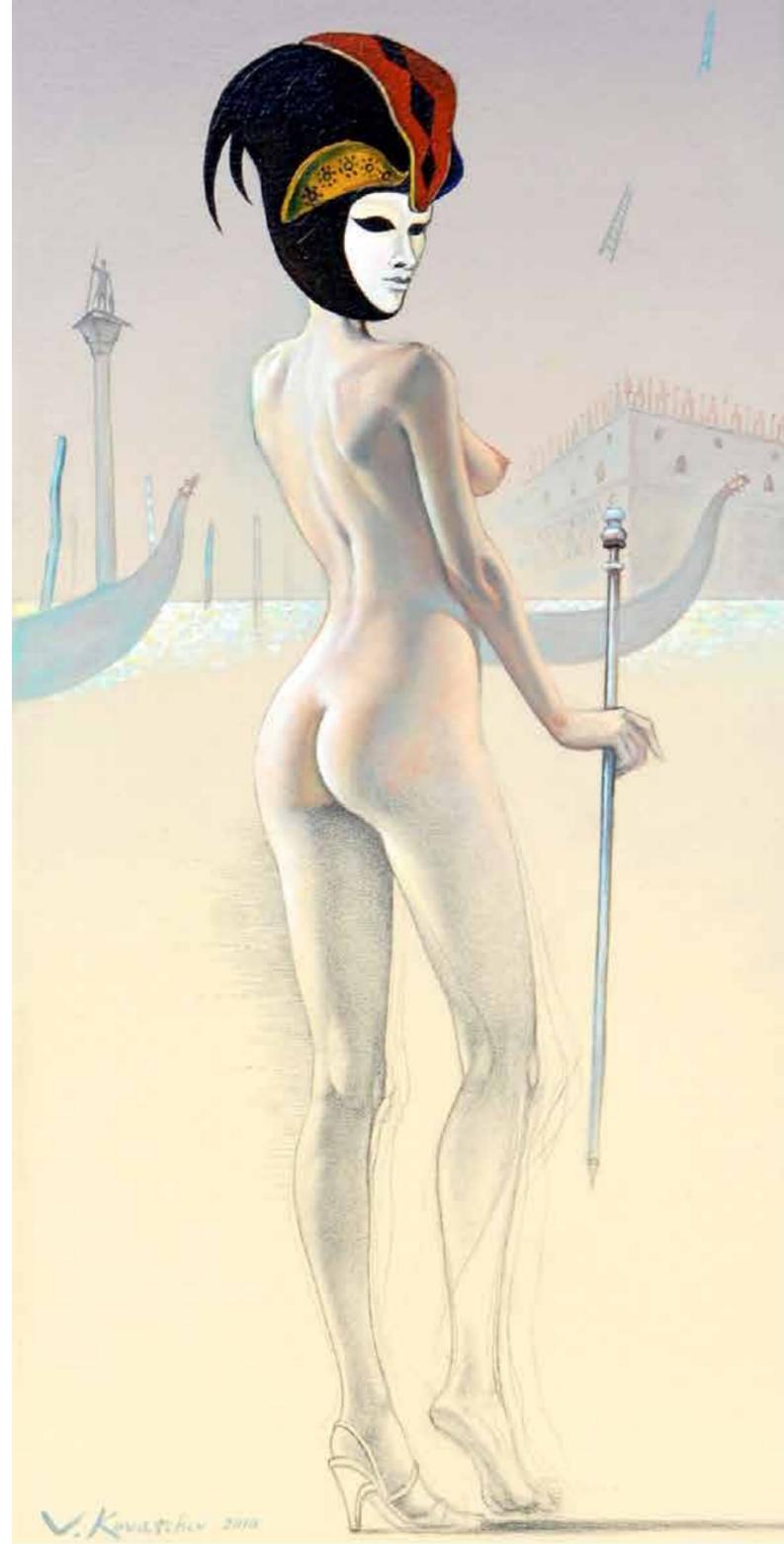


**“You use a glass mirror to see your face; you use works of art to see your soul”**

**“On utilise les miroirs pour se voir le visage ; l’art pour se voir l’âme”**

**“Los espejos se emplean para verse la cara; el arte para verse el alma”**

**George Bernard Shaw**



MASQUERADE BALL I AND II

Oil on canvas, 60 x 30 cm. 2010



**ANDROMEDA V**  
*Pencil drawing, 70 x 100 cm. 1999*



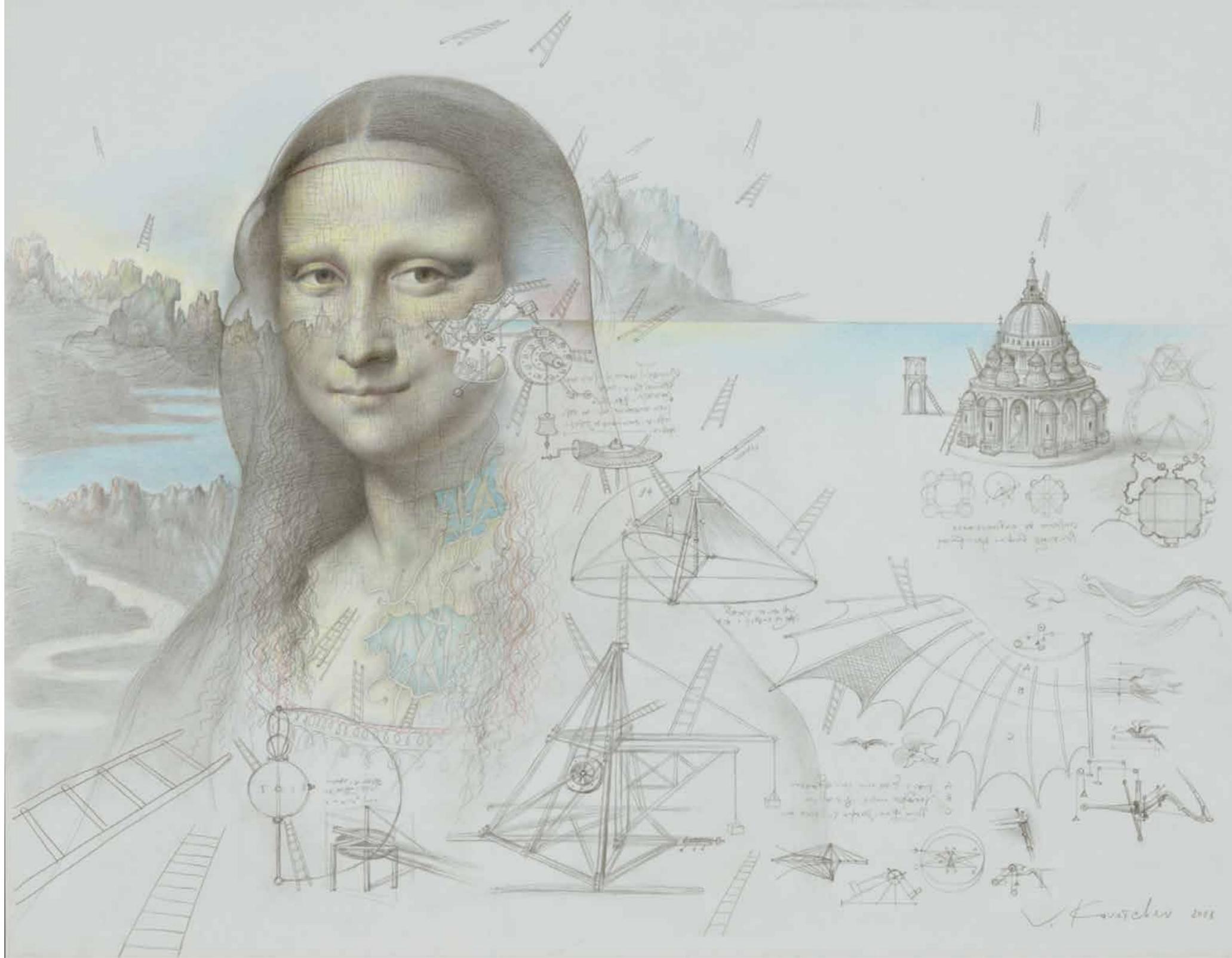
**MENINA AT THE MIRROR**

*Pencil drawing, 72 x 60 cm. 2007*

MARIANA OF AUSTRIA

Pencil drawing, 112 x 81 cm. 2007





**MONA LISA**

*Pencil drawing, 56 x 71 cm. 2008*



**“In the scale of love, woman is a few steps above man. The day when love triumphs over violence, woman will be the queen of the world”**

**“Dans l'échelle de l'amour, la femme est quelques marches au-dessus de l'homme. Le jour que l'amour domine sur la violence, la femme sera la reine du monde”**

**“En la escala del amor, la mujer está unos peldaños por encima del hombre. El día en que el amor domine sobre la violencia, la mujer será la reina del mundo”**

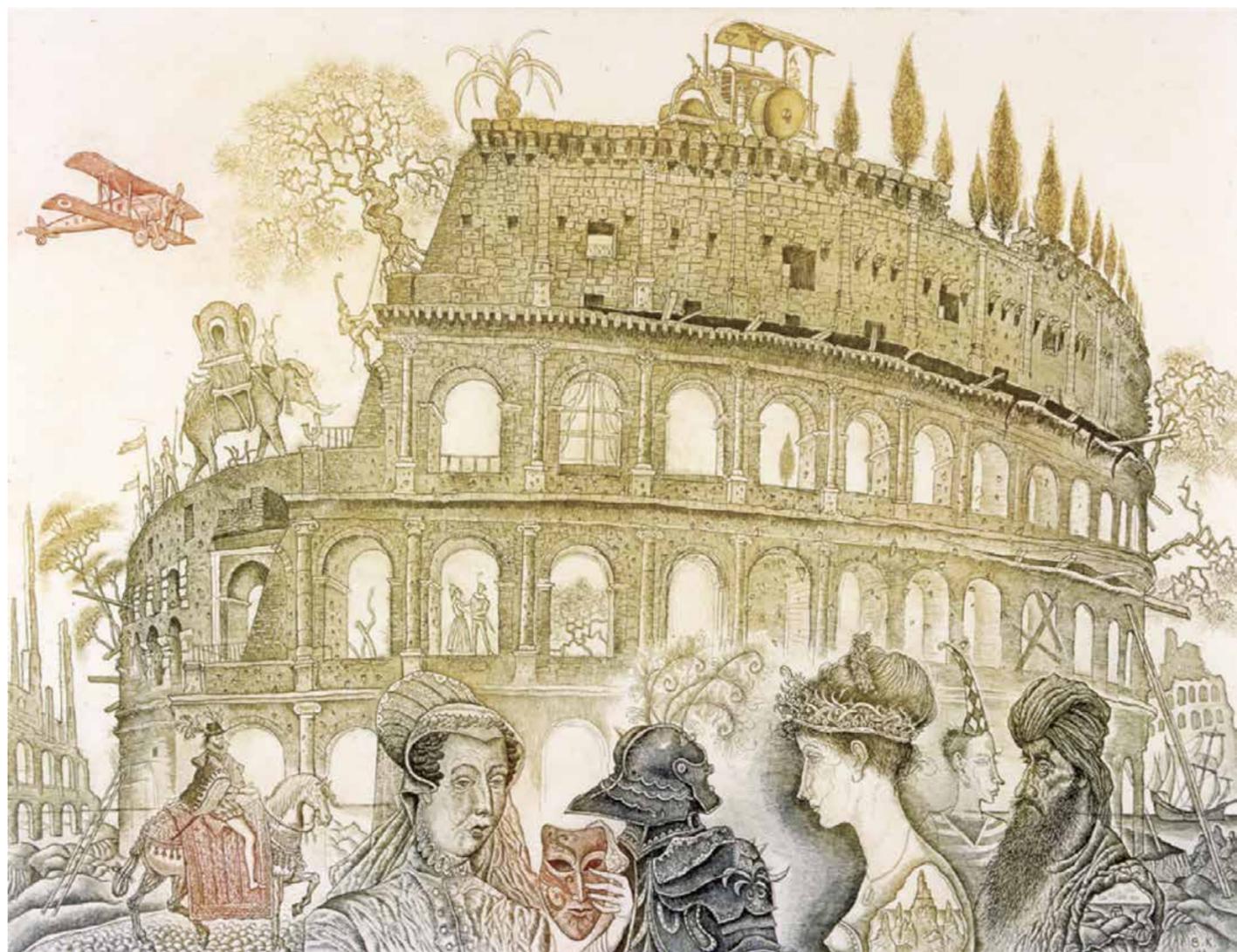
Flora Tristán



**HORSES AND DAYDREAMS II**  
*Etching and mezzotint, 24 x 30,5 cm. 2003*



**HORSES AND DAYDREAMS V**  
*Etching and mezzotint, 24 x 30,5 cm. 2003*



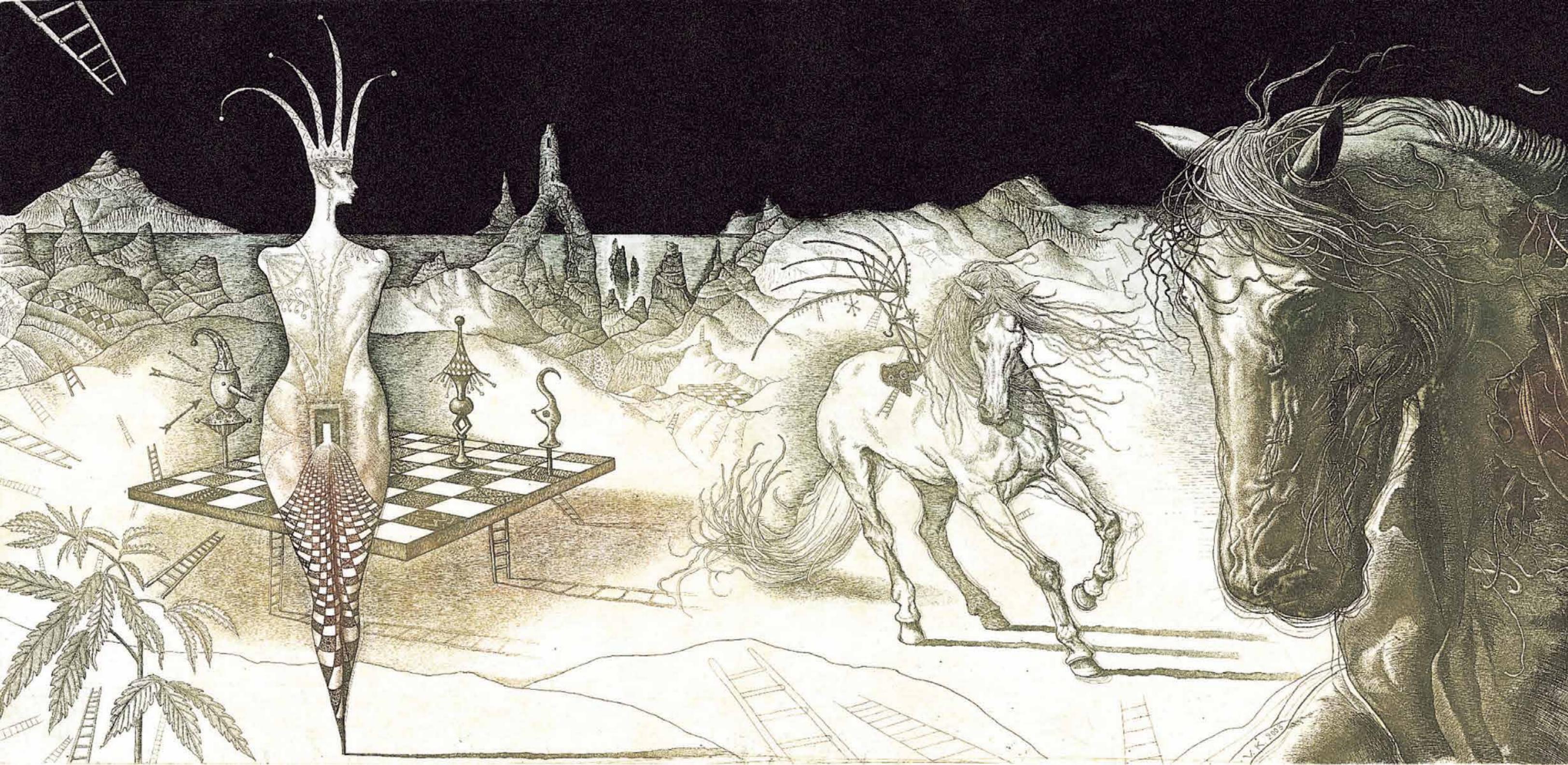
ROME, DREAM OF A JOURNEY II

Etching, 25 x 32 cm. 1991

ROME, DREAM OF A JOURNEY III

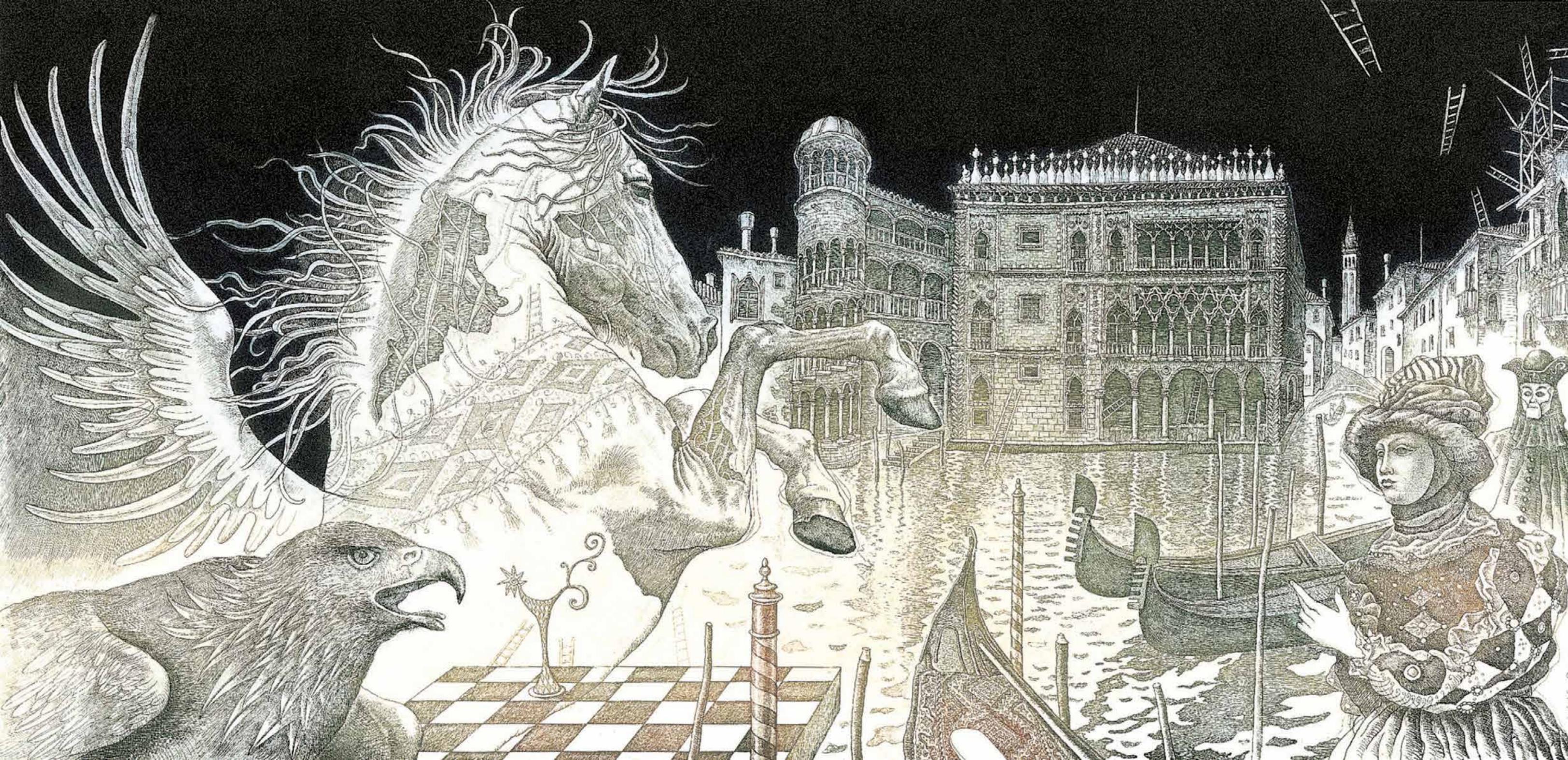
Etching, 25 x 32 cm. 1991





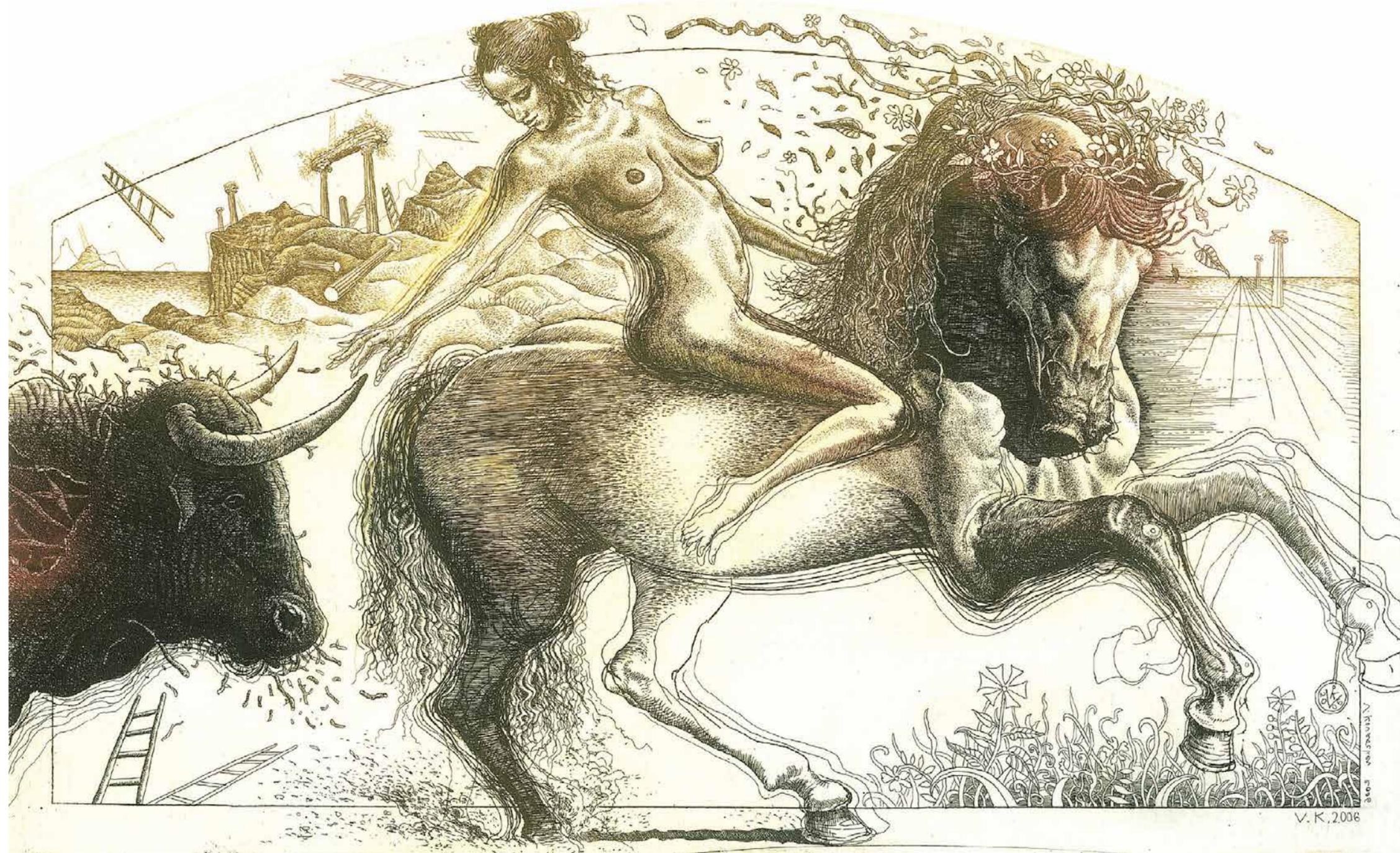
**HORSES AND DAYDREAMS III**

*Etching and mezzotint, 29 x 59 cm. 2003*



**HORSES AND DAYDREAMS IV**

*Etching and mezzotint, 29 x 59 cm. 2003*

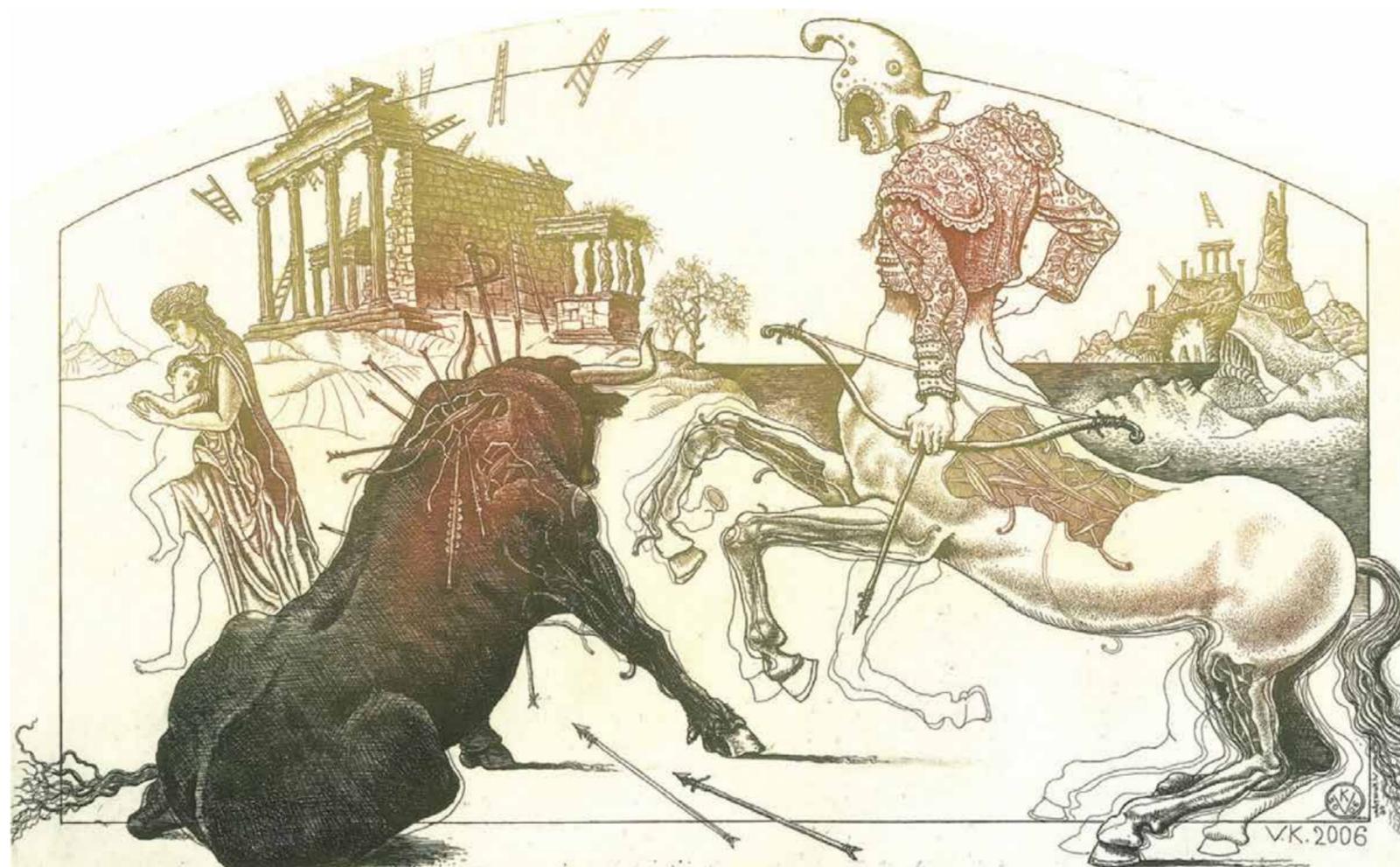


**TAVROMAGIA IV**  
Etching, 17 x 27 cm. 2006



### TAVROMAGIA III

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



## TAVROMAGIA V

Etching, 17 x 27 cm. 2006



“To create is as difficult as being free”

“Créer est aussi difficile qu’être libre”

“Crear es tan difícil como ser libre”

Elsa Triolet



**SUITE DALI V**  
*Etching, 16 x 27 cm. 2004*



**THE MAGIC OF LOVE**  
*Oil on canvas, 130 x 195 cm. 2008*



**MAJESTIC HORSE VIII**  
*Oil on canvas, 46 x 55 cm. 2014*



LIGHTS IN PARADISE

*Oil on canvas, 95 x 195 cm. 2010*



**MAJESTIC HORSE IX**

*Oil on canvas, 54 x 73 cm. 2014*



LADY OF THE HORSE

*Oil on canvas, 130 x 195 cm. 2009*



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.

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.

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

## 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** Artwork commissioned by AIRBUS MILITARY SPAIN for AIRBUS MILITARY USA, Washington. 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. Participates in the FASHION ART EU show in representation of Bulgaria with the participation of 28 EU countries, this exposition was inaugurated by Sylvie Guillaume, Vice President of the EU Parliament and will be held in the Parlamentarium, European Parliament Visitor's Centre in Brussels until 15th May 2015.

**2015** Represents Bulgaria in the FASHION ART EU Show, later the collection will start its tour in the member states. "IV Centennial Don Quixote Part II", participates in the permanent exposition "Don Quixote of La Mancha. Visions" in the Exhibition Hall-Museum Venta del Quijote, Puerto Lapice, with a selection of works by Dore, Decaris, Fragonard, Cocteau, Coypel, Scholtter, Blount, Hodgkin, Tonson, Goya, Dali, Picasso and Kovatchev, among others. Presentation of "Queens and Goddesses" show in the Espace VK Fine Art, Sablon, in Brussels, this show is supported by the Embassy of the Rep. of Bulgaria in the Kingdom of Belgium. Participates in ALMONEDA "25th Anniversary", Madrid. Exhibition in The Gallery, Sofia.

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

**1987** Army Showroom. Sophia, Bulgaria. Provincial Museum of Fine Arts. Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria.

**1989** UNESCO. Paris, France. L'entrée des Artistes Gallery. Barbizon, France.

Les Halles Gallery. Paris, France.

**1990** Bavarian-Bulgarian Bank. Munich, Germany.

**1991** Vigny Gallery. Munich, Germany. Echancrue Gallery. Brussels, Belgium.

**1992** L'angle Aigu Gallery. Brussels, Belgium.

**1993** Cartel Gallery. Granada, Spain. Porticvs Gallery. Malaga, Spain.

**1994** Goya Museum of Engraving. Fuendetodos, Spain. Tudores Gallery. Puerto Banus, Spain.

Post Office Exhibition Centre. Torremolinos, Spain.

**1995** Bremer Gallery. Berlin, Germany. Santiago Casar Gallery. Santander, Spain.

**1996** Baron de San Carlos Gallery. Llanes, Spain. "Círculo Católico" Showroom, Burgos, Spain.

**1997** "Homage to Hermann Hesse". Hermann Hesse Museum. Calw, Germany.

"Homage to Manolete", Episcopal Palace of Cordoba and Cajamar Showroom. Malaga, Spain.

Perspective Art Gallery. Bochum, Germany.

**1998** Aula. Calw, Germany. ARCALE. Salamanca, Spain. "50th Book Fair". Frankfurt, Germany.

Perspective Art Gallery. Bochum, Germany.

**1999** "For the Peace". Hermann Hesse Museum. Calw, Germany. ALMONEDA. Madrid, Spain.

"51st Book Fair". Frankfurt, Germany. Town Hall, Torremolinos, Spain.

**2000** Coningsby Gallery. London, England. Oljemak Gallery. Helsinki, Finland.

Museum of Valdepeñas, Spain. Armaga Gallery. Leon, Spain.

**2001** Europ'Art Genève, Switzerland. ALMONEDA. Madrid, Spain. Museum-Foundation CIEC. Betanzos, Spain.

"Picasso, 120th Anniversary". Cajamar Showroom. Malaga, Spain.

**2002** ARTESEVILLA, Spain. ALMONEDA. Madrid, Spain.

"Hermann Hesse Jahr 2002". Reaktions-Bild. Landratsamt Calw, Germany.

"Hermann Hesse und Pablo Picasso". Parksaal des Kurhauses. Bad Liebenzell, Germany. EKUMENE. Madrid, Spain.

**2003** "Chess" ALMONEDA, and "Horses and Daydreams" ESTAMPA, Madrid, Spain.

**2004** "Homage to Dali". Rectorate Showroom. University of Malaga, Spain.

**2005** Advance exhibition of "Don Quixote with a Bulgarian soul. Homage to King Simeon of Bulgaria". ALMONEDA. Madrid, Spain.

Presentation of the exhibition "Don Quixote with a Bulgarian soul. Homage to King Simeon of Bulgaria". ESTAMPA, Madrid, Spain.

**2006** "Cosmic Chess". Castile and Leon Regional Council, Leon, Spain.

**2007** "The Thracian Horses". ALMONEDA, Madrid, Spain. "Retrospective Exhibition, 1959-2007", Benalmadena Arts Centre. Spain.

**2008** "Las Meninas", ALMONEDA, Madrid and MARB ART, Marbella, Spain.

**2009** "Retrospective Exhibition 1959-2009". Museum of the Royal House of Money, Madrid, Spain.

"Retrospective Exhibition 1959-2009". Cortijo Miraflores Museum, Marbella, Spain.

**2010** "Passion for Malaga", Sala Noble Showroom, Malaga, Spain. ALMONEDA, Madrid. "Robotikas", ARTEBILBAO, Spain.

**2011** "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.

**2012** "20 years in Malaga", Benedito Art Gallery, Malaga, Spain.

**2013** "Metaphysical Spaces", Alfican Art Gallery, Brussels.

**2014** "Metamorphosis". Alfican Art Gallery, Brussels.

**2015** "Queens and Goddesses", Espace VK Fine Art, Brussels.

## PRIZES AND DISTINCTIONS

- 1986** First Prize "Army Painting Award". Sophia, Bulgaria.
- 1990** Finalist at the "International Triennial of Graphic Art", Kochi, Japan.
- 1991** First Prize at the "II International Biennial of Graphic Art". Athens, Greece.
- Awarded at the "IV International Biennial of Graphic Art". Wakayama, Japan.
- 1993** Finalist at the "I National Engraving Prize", National Chalcography, Madrid, Spain.
- 1994** Honourable Mention at the XLIII Autumn Exhibition. Royal Academy of Fine Arts of Saint Elisabeth of Hungary. Seville, Spain.
- 1995** First Prize of Engraving in the Andalusian Fine Arts Competition. Athenaeum of Seville, 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.
- 1996** 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.
- 1997** First Prize of Drawing at the "I Bulls ans Festivities Award". Madrid, Spain.
- Third Medal at the "64 Autumn Exhibition". Madrid, Spain.
- 1999** First Prize at the "I National Drawing Award Felipe Orlando". Benalmadena Town Hall, Spain.
- Finalist at the "Penagos Drawing Award". Madrid, Spain.
- First Prize at the "IX National Drawing Award Gregorio Prieto". Valdepeñas, Spain.
- 2002** Finalist at the "Penagos Drawing Award". Madrid, Spain.
- 2004** Finalist at the "XVII Engraving Award Maximo Ramos". Ferrol, Spain.

## 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.
- Nakatosa 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.
- Embassy of Bulgaria, London, United Kingdom.
- Museum Venta del Quijote, Puerto Lapice, Spain.
- Foundation Vasarely. Aix-en-Provence. France.
- Queen Elizabeth II Collection, Windsor Castle. United Kingdom.
- Airbus Military USA.

## EXHIBITION

### ORGANIZER

Rosario Escobar

### EXHIBITION MOUNTING AND DESIGN

VK · Art · Gallery · Studio · Editions

## CATALOGUE

### DESIGN

Rosario Escobar

### PHOTOGRAPHY

José Sánchez  
Serapio Carreño

### TEXTS

Ambassador Vesselin Valkanov  
Anatole France  
William Shakespeare  
Miguel de Cervantes  
Auguste Rodin  
Yuel-Ji  
George Bernard Shaw  
Flora Tristán  
Elsa Triolet  
Rabindranath Tagore

### TRANSLATION

George Todd  
Helen Limb

### LAYOUT

Adán Miranda

### EDITOR

Valentin Kovatchev  
Tel. + 34 609 58 00 55  
valentin@kovatchev.com  
www.kovatchev.com

### © TEXTS

Theirs authors

### © WORKS IN CATALOGUE

Valentín Kovatchev  
All rights reserved

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA IN THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Mme MONIQUE BANDE

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



**“By plucking her petals; you do not gather the beauty of the flower”**  
**“Bien que tu lui arraches les pétales, tu ne déroberas pas sa beauté à la fleur”**  
**“Aunque le arranques los pétalos, no quitarás su belleza a la flor”**

Rabindranath Tagore

VK



Ambassade de la République de  
Bulgarie au Royaume de Belgique