

Nataliya Lemesheva

artist

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Artist statement

Art has always been a platform for human research for me. Painterly canvases are the result of my reflections within the categories of intimacy, personal boundaries, emotional state, sensory experience.

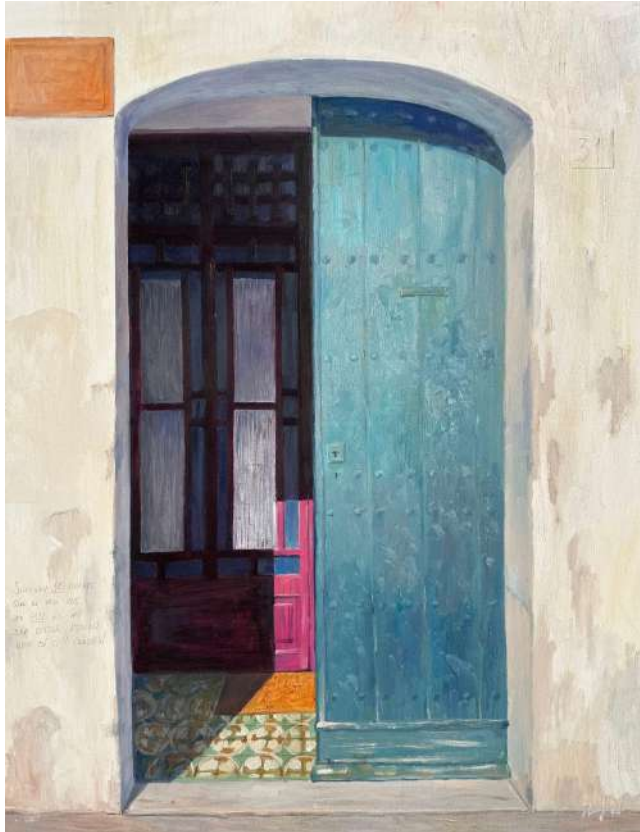
I moved to Spain in 2020 from Russia, where I found a new territory to explore not only myself in a new circumstances, but also the issue of boundaries within the framework of a different cultural code, that opened up to me. My works are a synthesis of anthropological, cultural and psychological research. I observe people through their rituals and the way they live. Traditional objects that surround a person, the architecture of a living space can tell us about a person sometimes more than he can himself. I am currently working on my largest series, Doors, which is a series of portraits of the owners of houses without the traditional portrait. This tradition has been known to us since the heyday of genre Dutch painting, where the hero's portrait was framed with interior details that reveal his character. I create my works in stages: I collect reliable photo documentation, analyze the subject content and architectural features of local culture buildings, then turn to my emotional feelings and transfer them to the canvas.

At this stage, I am very interested in disclosing the topic of psychological boundaries between people and I want to go directly to the person. An important part of my research is inner work and self-observation: I go to every contact without expectations, but always in an open state. I observe not only a person, but also ask myself the question: "How much am I able to maintain a state of openness to strangers?" This allows me to explore the process of contact authentically and reliably, based on my own sincere experience. I observe a person, I observe myself and the contact that has happened between us, getting three points of focus of attention, which become the emotional background that unfolds in the final pictures.

Other series of works also focus on the experience of open feeling, which is so lacking in a person in 21st century. We look for areas of safe feeling and try not to be injured once again, we reinsure ourselves and in the end we choose to feel as little as possible. This reduces the quality of our emotional life and makes people disconnected.

Art is understandable to people, regardless of the language they speak, so for me this is another way to find out how a new cultural space is capable of accepting a person from a different cultural background without prejudices and patterns of perception. I reveal the issues of universal human values that unite people. I continue to research in my projects if this is the case.

Series “DOORS”



Door 1
Oil on canvas
116x89 cm 2021

“There are things known and there are things unknown, and between them are doors” - Jim Morrison

The Doors project is a synthesis of anthropological, cultural and psychological research. A door is a unique structural element that defines and helps to bridge the boundary between two spaces: external and internal. It is an amazing object of existence, surrounded on both sides by a multitude of spaces and events, expressing a unique character and, at the same time, openness to the world.

That is why I chose them as the most eloquent elements, representing not only individual personalities, but also the collective identity of the inhabitants of a certain region. The experience of portraying architectural details opens up the opportunity to imagine, imagine life taking place in interiors. This essentially apophenic act does not provide any guarantee that people are exactly what they seem to be. However, the very appeal to such a model of the imaginary makes it possible to establish connections between invisible aspects of the world. In addition, the endless search for these connections gives me the opportunity to adapt to a new country, find support in a liminal state-space, and re-establish the connection between my own inner self and the outside world.

Series "DOORS"



Door 2
Oil on canvas
116x89 cm 2022



Door 3
Oil on canvas
116x89 cm 2022

Series "DOORS"



Door 6. Self portrait
Oil on canvas
116x89 cm 2023



Door 10
Oil on canvas
116x89 cm 2023

Series "DOORS"



Door 7
Oil on canvas
24x19 cm 2023



Door 8
Oil on canvas
24x19 cm 2023



Door 4.
Oil on canvas
40x30 cm 2022



Door 9
Oil on canvas
24x19 cm 2023



Door 11
Oil on canvas
24x19 cm 2023



Door 12
Oil on canvas
24x19 cm 2023

Series “DOORS”



Addition to Door 5
Window.
Oil on canvas
20x20 cm 2023



Addition to Door 1.
Window.
Oil on canvas
65x38 cm 2021



Addition to Door 2
Flowerpot
Oil on canvas
20x20 cm 2023



Addition to Door 1. Doorknob.
Oil on canvas
46x38 cm 2021

Series “SHADOWS”



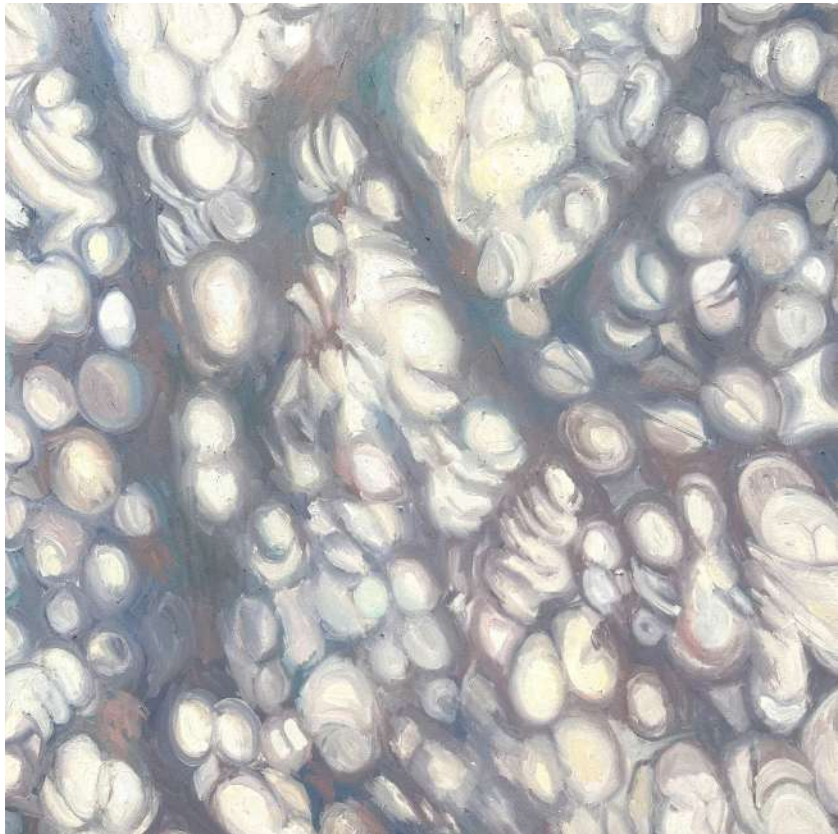
Shadow 1
80x80 cm 2021
oil on canvas

The basis of my project is the use of shadows as a means to explore the inner world of a person, his emotions, aspirations and unknown aspects of personality. Shadow is a metaphorical feature that distinguishes and connects the visible and the invisible, consciousness and subconscious. In working with shadows, I update the process of self-knowledge, relationships with myself. For me, it is the search for the experiential self through the articulation of my feelings and memories of the moment. Shadows are a kind of symbolic drawing of the world, a substrate of images that is capable of projecting and demonstrating the connection of the internal, subjective with the external world.

In my exploration of shadows, the concept of non-duality plays a central role; in my work, I look for ways to express non-binary shades and meanings of visuality, to step away from black and white. Images of Shadows take us beyond the boundaries of familiar patterns and open up new ways of perceiving and understanding the world.

I strive for a balance between abstraction and recognizable elements of nature. The shadows on the canvas have different shapes and outlines, like abstract figures that penetrate each other, forming intricate shapes. A wide palette of colors creates a sense of movement and energy within the shadows, giving them dynamics and liveliness. By articulating the visuality of shadows, I propose to think about the essence of things and events. The project invites you to abandon the dual perception of the world and conveys the idea of the unity and interconnection of all things. I encourage the viewer to delve into the world of abstraction and discover their own interpretation of shadows and their significance in the context of their own impressions and experiences.

Series "SHADOWS"



Shadow 6
50x60 cm 2022
oil on canvas

Shadow 12
80x80 cm 2023
oil on canvas

Series “Shadows”



Shadow 13
30x30 cm 2023
oil on canvas



Shadow 11
30x30 cm 2023
oil on canvas



Shadow 14
30x30 cm 2023
oil on canvas



Shadow 5
30x30 cm 2022
oil on canvas

Series “Shadows”



Shadow 18
30x30 cm 2024
oil on canvas



Shadow 19
30x30 cm 2024
oil on canvas



Shadow 20
30x30 cm 2024
oil on canvas



Shadow 21
30x30 cm 2024
oil on canvas

Series “Shadows”



Shadow 15
120x60 cm 2023
oil on canvas



Shadow 17
120x60 cm 2023
oil on canvas

Series “Shadows”



Shadow 16
150x200 cm 2023
oil on canvas

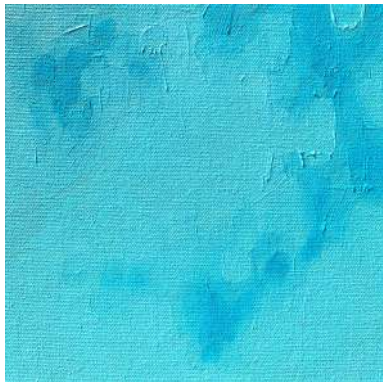
Series “Shadows”



Shadow 7
20x20 cm 2023
oil on canvas



Shadow 8
20x20 cm 2023
oil on canvas



Shadow 9
20x20 cm 2023
oil on canvas



Shadow 10
20x20 cm 2023
oil on canvas

Series “Shadows”



Shadow 3
60x30 cm 2021
oil on canvas



Shadow 4
60x30 cm 2021
oil on canvas

Series “Shadows”



Shadow 2
60x40 cm 2021
oil on canvas

Series “DOORS Magritte”



Door 13
Oil on canvas
116x89 cm 2023

This project was started under the influence of the work of the great surrealist Rene Magritte. It combines Shadows and Doors, which helps to more accurately characterize the inhabitants of houses, as well as our expectations and fears. This project is a bridge between fantasy and reality, bringing together different dimensions in one space.

In pursuit of expressing the identity of the owners, I introduce chopped holes of various shapes into the door panels, each of which becomes a kind of gateway to the world of secret images. This is a visual narrative about the hidden stories that hide behind facades.

From the chopped holes of some Doors darkness flows, like an inarticulate secret, seeping out. These are not just shadows; they are phantoms of fear, hidden anxieties that we dare not face. Black silhouettes extend beyond the doors, invading the outside world, blurring the boundaries between inner horror and the tangible world.

On the contrary, through other doors, the sun penetrates outside, casting playful and optimistic shadows. Here the canvas becomes a theater for the interaction of light and shadow, an echo of the human spirit. These are not just doors; they are allegories that challenge perceptions and invite viewers to question their own thresholds of light and shadow.

The use of stylization, characteristic of Magritte, leads the viewer to think about what is hidden behind this door, what secrets or truths can be discovered if one penetrates beyond its confines. The project encourages the viewer to consider reality not only as it seems, but also to look beyond it, where new, unprecedented worlds begin.



Nataliya Lemesheva

artist

Education:

Moscow State Academic Art Institute named after V.I.Surikov at the Russian Academy of Arts, artist, Russia
Voronezh State University, economist, Russia
HSE University, contemporary art, online course, Russia

Member of the National Union of Pastelists of Russia

Since 2020 based in Spain, province of Barcelona, Cabrils

Languages: Russian, German, English, Spanish

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Born and raised in Voronezh. Since childhood has been actively drawing and participated in a number of children's and youth competitions.

After graduating from Voronezh State University moved to Moscow.

In 2004 got engaged in graphics in the artist's studio.

In 2014 started actively painting using soft pastels.

In 2019 graduated from the Moscow State Academic Art Institute. Together with a group of fellow students created an art association called "Workshop 18". Currently actively participates in exhibitions, held first personal exhibition.

Since 2020, has been actively studying contemporary art.

2020 moves to live in Spain.

Personal exhibition:

2019 "We come from childhood", House of Art Workers, Vladimir, Russia

Selected collective exhibitions:

2024 Pushkin - the soul of Russia", Ostafyevo Museum, Russia

2023 "The Artist's Path". Gallery "SALT", Moscow, Russia

2023 FIABARCELONA Barcelona, Spain

2023 Almenara Prize, Spain

2023 "Beauty of bygone eras", Exhibition Center "House of Artist", Mozhaisk, Russia

2023 "There is a house", gallery "Solntsevo", Moscow, Russia

2023 "The Path to Light" Ryazan Museum named after Pozhalostin, Ryazan, Russia

2023 "MEAM Hall" MEAM Barcelona, Spain

2023 "SVOYASI", Moscow All-Russian Museum of Decorative Arts, Moscow, Russia

2023 "Conversation with the Master" 150th anniversary of the birth of I.E. Grabar. Egoryevsk Historical and Art Museum, Egoryevsk, Russia

2023 "Ski track to the Lavra" Temple of Dmitry Donskoy, Sergiev Posad, Russia

2023 "Inspired by Kolomna", Ozerov House-Museum, Kolomna, Russia

2022 "Peter's Travels" MDN Moscow, Russia

2022 "A.S. Griboedov, devoted to you" Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow, Russia

2022 "Dedicated to Adolf Ovchinnikov" Cultural and Exhibition Center, Pereslavl-Zalessky, Moscow

2022 "Approving beauty..." Lipetsk Regional Local History Art Museum, Lipetsk, Russia

2022 "East and tender and brilliant" Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow, Russia

2022 "N. Gumilev - poet, warrior, traveler" Cairo, Egypt

2022 Bunin I. and Dostoevsky F.M. Lipetsk, Russia

2022 Fearisart

2022 Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow

2022 Museum of V.Vysotskiy, Moscow

2021 "Dostoevsky @ Bunin. Pro and contra "Museum of Local Lore, Lipetsk

2021 "2020. New reality" National Union of Pastelists, Moscow

2021 "Conversation with the Master" Grabar Restoration Center, Moscow

2021 "N. Gumilyov - poet, warrior, traveler" State Museum of A.S. Pushkin, Moscow

2021 "Childhood", Omsk

2020 Dear Russian emigrant "Museum of Russian Art, Moscow

2020 Dedication to Bulgakov, Museum-Theater "Bulgakov House", Moscow

2019 "Under the quiet plow of winter", Tsvetaeva House-Museum, Moscow

2019 "The Artist and the World", Moscow Union of Artists, Moscow

2019 Russian Art Week, Sokolniki Exhibition Center, Moscow

2019 "Colors of Summer", Exhibition Hall "Tushino", Moscow

2019 "Inspiration of Maslovka", Central House of Art Workers, Moscow

2017 "All facets of beauty", Central House of Cinema, Moscow

Publications

Magazine "Russian Tourist" 3/4 2022

Magazine "Russian Tourist" 3/4 2022

Magazine "Russian Art" September 2020

Magazine "Russian Tourist" 3/4 2020

Competitions, awards:

Winner in three nominations 2019 Russian Art Week, Sokolniki Exhibition and Convention Center, Moscow

Paintings in the museum collections:

Museum "Ozerov's House" Kolomna, Russia,

Bunin Museum, Lipetsk, Russia,

Museum and exhibition center "House of Gumilevs", Bezhetsk, Russia,

Egoryevsk History and Art Museum, Egoryevsk, Russia

Paintings in private collections:

Russia, Spain, USA, Italy, Netherlands, Belarus