

Nataliya Lemesheva

artist

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Artist statement

My works represent a synthesis of anthropological, cultural, and psychological studies. I explore issues of immigration, adaptation, and integration of immigrants who immerse themselves in a different social environment, navigating their place in a liminal space. Moreover, my artistic practice revolves around the concept of non-duality — the understanding that all phenomena are ultimately interconnected and indivisible. In my works, I strive to show the blurring of boundaries between opposites such as light and dark, internal and external, familiar and foreign, abstraction and realism. For me, any duality is illusory.

I study these questions through my own experience. In 2020, I moved from Russia to Spain, where I discovered a new territory for exploring not only myself in new circumstances but also the question of boundaries within a different cultural framework. As an introvert with a language barrier, it is difficult for me to make open contact with strangers. Therefore, I use techniques of traditional Dutch painting, where a person's portrait is created from their attributes, framed by interior details that reveal their character. Everyday objects surrounding a person, the architecture of living spaces, doors, and windows can tell us more about a person than they might themselves.

To observe people through their rituals and way of life, I practice *flânerie* or drifting. Drifting for me is a way to find a reflection of myself in the surrounding space, in a new, fundamentally different culture, and an opportunity to find something of my own through working with visuality. The method is directed not at the city but at myself. The role of chance is significant in this exploration. It is unknown in advance which door or shadow will resonate and most accurately characterize the people or myself. Here, "recognition" works — only by seeing the object do I understand that this is what I was looking for. In my practice, I observe, as if "peeking" at local residents to understand how people with a different cultural code live. The experience of voyeurism is important to me as a tool for constructing wholeness, identity, and my own subjectivity through visual images, establishing contact with the surrounding space and culture.

Art is understandable to people regardless of the language they speak, so for me, it is another way to learn and show viewers how capable a new cultural space is of accepting a person of a different cultural background without prejudice and stereotypes, how difficult it is for a person to detach from their roots and integrate into a foreign culture, to make contact with people with a different mentality openly and impartially, and how important it is for people to avoid categorical duality in their relationships with the world and with each other.

Series “DOORS Magritte”



Door 13
Oil on canvas
116x89 cm 2024

This project was started under the influence of the work of the great surrealist René 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.

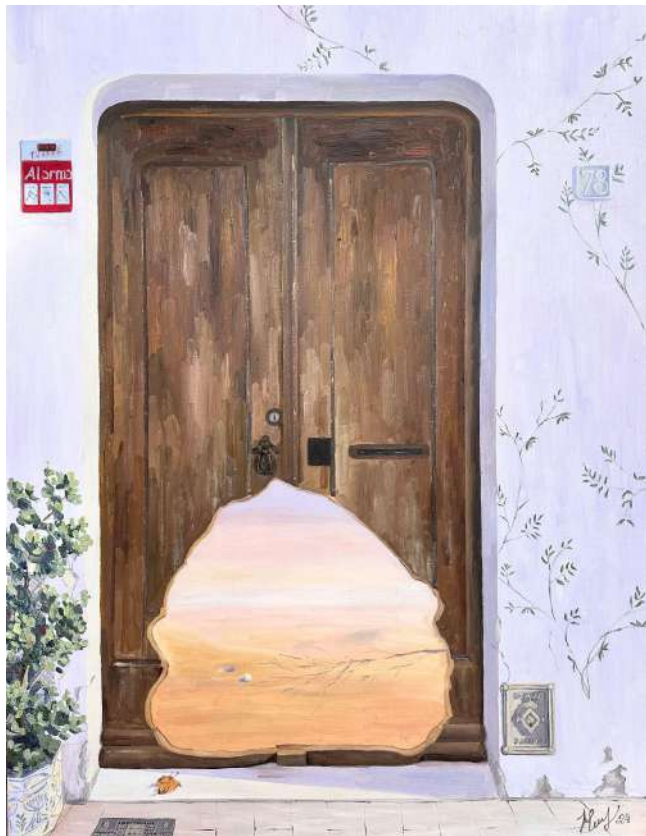
In pursuit of expressing the identity of the owners, I introduce chopped holes of various shapes into the door panels, each of which becomes a kind of gateway to the world of secret images. This is a visual narrative about the hidden stories that hide behind facades.

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.

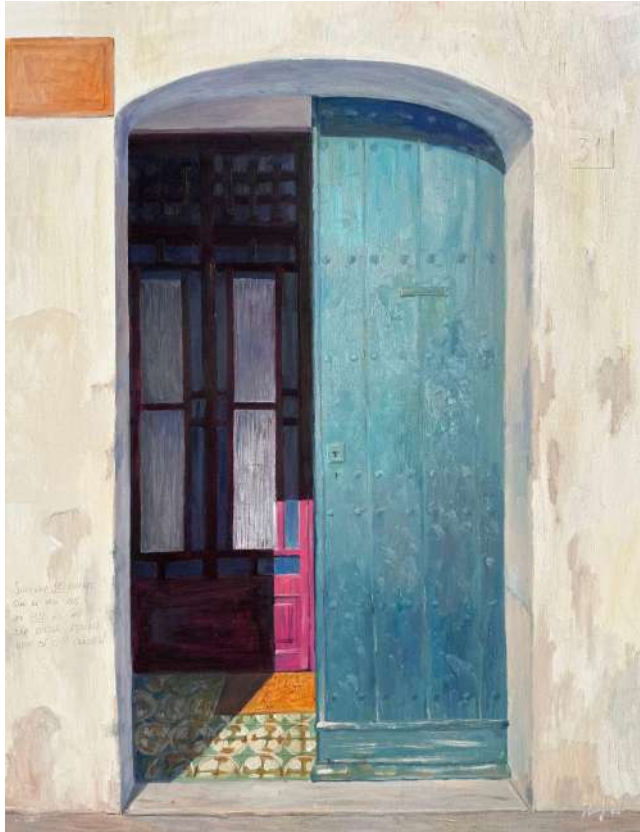
Series "DOORS Magritte"



Door 14

Oil on canvas
116x89 cm 2024

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 represents a synthesis of anthropological, cultural, and psychological studies. A door is a unique architectural element that defines and helps overcome the boundary between two spaces: the external and the internal. It is a remarkable 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's why I chose them as the most eloquent elements representing not only individual personalities but also the collective identity of the inhabitants of a particular region. The experience of portraying architectural details opens up the opportunity to imagine the life flowing within the interiors.

This apophenic act, essentially, offers no guarantee that people are exactly as they seem. Nevertheless, the engagement with such a model of imagination provides the opportunity to establish connections between the invisible aspects of the world. Furthermore, the endless search for these connections allows me to adapt in a new country, find support in the liminal state-space, and reset the connection between my own inner "self" and the external 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 “SHADOWS”



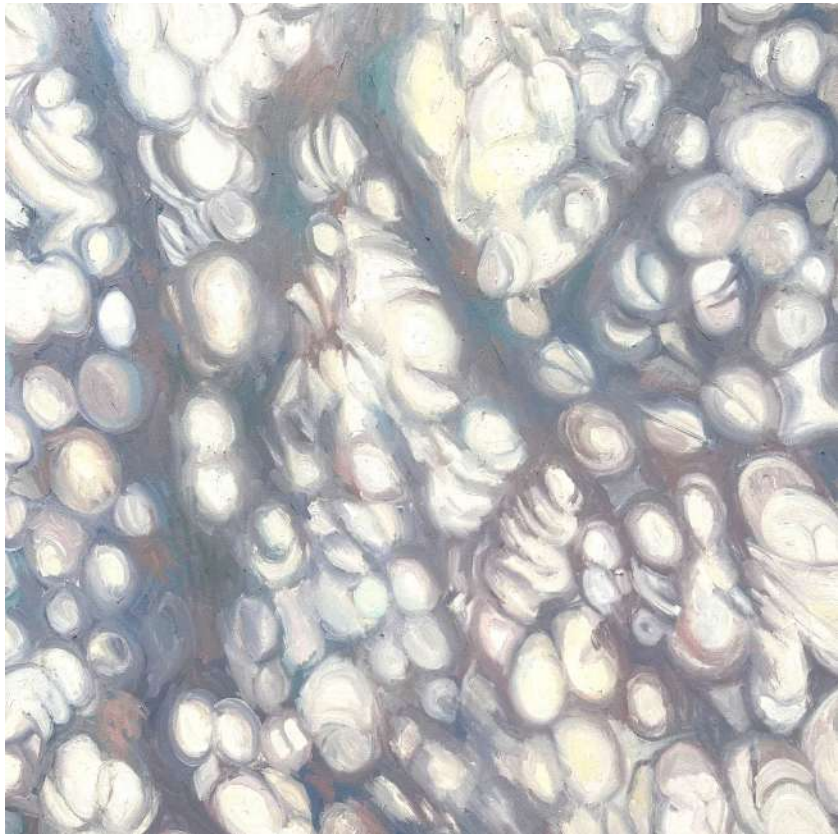
Shadow 1
80x80 cm 2021
oil on canvas

At the heart of my project is the use of shadows as a means of exploring the inner world of a person, their emotions, aspirations, and undiscovered aspects of personality. A shadow is a metaphorical boundary that differentiates and connects the visible and invisible, consciousness and subconsciousness. In working with shadows, I engage with the process of self-discovery and the relationship with oneself. For me, it is a search for the empirical "self" through the articulation of feelings and memories of a moment. Shadows are a kind of symbolic drawing of the world, a substratum of images that can project and manifest the connection between the internal, subjective realm and the external world.

In my investigation of shadows, the central role is played by the concept of non-duality, and in my work, I seek ways to express non-binary shades and meanings of visibility, distancing from black-and-white. Images of shadows take us beyond familiar patterns and open new paths for perception and understanding of the world. I strive for a balance between abstraction and recognizable elements of nature. Shadows on the canvas have various forms and outlines, akin to abstract figures that interpenetrate each other, creating intricate shapes. A rich color palette evokes a sense of movement and energy within the shadows, giving them dynamism and vitality.

By articulating the visibility of shadows, I invite contemplation on the essence of things and events. The project encourages rejecting a dualistic perception of the world and conveys the idea of unity and interconnectedness of all being. I invite the viewer to immerse themselves in a world of abstraction and discover their own interpretation of shadows and their significance within the context of personal impressions and experience.

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 15
120x60 cm 2023
oil on canvas



Shadow 17
120x60 cm 2023
oil on canvas

Series "Shadows"



Shadow 18
30x30 cm 2024
oil on canvas



Shadow 19
30x30 cm 2024
oil on canvas

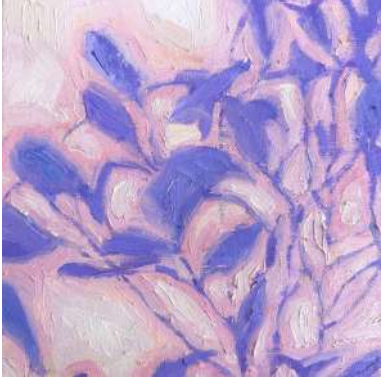


Shadow 20
30x30 cm 2024
oil on canvas



Shadow 21
30x30 cm 2024
oil on canvas

Series “Shadows”



Shadow 22
20x20 cm 2024
oil on canvas



Shadow 23
20x20 cm 2024
oil on canvas



Shadow 24
20x20 cm 2024
oil on canvas

Shadow 25
20x20 cm 2024
oil on canvas

Series “Shadows”



Shadow 16
150x200 cm 2023
oil on canvas

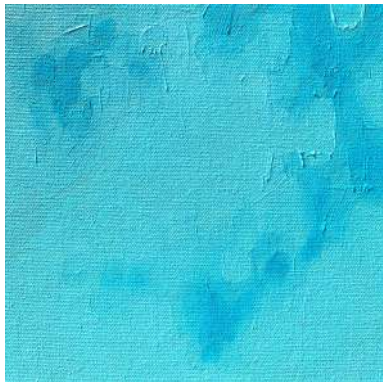
Series “Shadows”



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. Freedom”



Shadow 2
60x40 cm 2021
oil on canvas



Shadow 22
60x40 cm 2024
oil on canvas



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

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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.

In 2020 moves to live in Spain.

In 2021 started working on two projects: Doors and Shadows

In 2024 participates in the creation of an association of artists

Solo exhibition:

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

Selected collective exhibitions:

2024 RA Summer Exhibition, London

2024 Group exhibition of contemporary artists, HotSpot, Barcelona, Spain

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

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 online project

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

Artistcloseup Magazine 19/2024 [Magazine — Artistcloseup.com - Your favorite place to discover new artists](#)

Magazine "Russian Tourist" 1 2024 ["Russian Tourist" 1 2024](#)

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