

## MARINA MARZA AND HER MAGIC THEATER

The art of Marina Marza makes its home in the world of carnival and fairy tale; it reveals to us a mysterious delightful realm; a “festive madness” of conflicting qualities and meanings, It has everything- the genuine universality of imagery (at times on a cosmic scale); paradoxes of concepts and notions that appear in a completely unexpected fashion; the clowns and buffoons of the squares and the streets; the eccentric challenge of the “commedia dell’arte”. In short, an unruly, sarcastic license which, apropos, casts into disarray every set rule and every hidebound regimentation to thereby proclaim the untrammelled creative volition of the human heart and mind; the supreme joy and superlative justification of life.

Unlike many of her contemporary colleagues, Marina is never constricted to a plot confined within a set frame. Rather, she demonstrates a far reaching boundless perspective; an artistic creed that expounds the eternal mainstays of life; an all conquering vitality; a poetic enthusiasm at the beauty and joy of life. This “Magic Theater” of hers, truly a “theater of life” obeys no known laws and emerges from her inner sanctum to entrance and captivate the viewer. Now and again we are treated to a short-cut that leads from a dramatic intensity to an ennobling catharsis. One is filled with the constructive dynamicism and fervor of the “first day of creation”.

The artistic means embodied in Marina's arsenal of expression are as noble minded as the verse of ancient drama, whose soft glow emanates naturally and serenely from some mysterious source seemingly located behind the frame of the canvas, to generate localized episodes knitted together by one common universality.

Marina's art suggests a mystery play dedicated to life's radiance, to its eternal reincarnation. In her "poetry play" is the incorporation of all reality. Symbols and magic transformations dominate the stage of Marina's "behind-the-looking-glass" theater. Her compositions are reminiscent of happy dreams bubbling with the feelings of enchantment; of a rainbow mirage. Her dramatic tonality demonstrates the color of love; it takes in the entire spectrum and combines it into a very special re-creation with various nuances and shades and with variations of tune and feeling. Here, the blends and reflections of an ochreous yellow, green and deep blue, all acquire an intonation that seems to elaborate on the basic leitmotif. At the same time, the texture and subtle coloring with impeccably consummate associative perfection, bring to mind the paintings of Watteau or Velasquez.

In Marina Marza's art, the world stands as one inspired integral whole with no division of the living and the dead; a world where everything is invested with intellect and heartfelt feeling. Only natural therefore is the

bonding of all with everything, allowing for every conceivable transposition of the commonplace components of mundane everyday life; a blending of the seemingly incompatible. This “cocktail” is not only of living creatures and inanimate objects, but also of temporal and territorial concepts. Marina’s work can be seen from different, often unexpected slants and angles, often revealing a magic world that, in its never-ending movement and reincarnation, gives a piercing, tense, astral light; part of the universe linking art and the cosmos; a talent that artists of preceding decades had lost. She gives us a bond with those mysterious and magic forces which govern our everyday life.

Every detail; every episode in Marina’s compositions is permeated with the feeling of the inimitable charm and freshness of every single moment in life. Yet each such moment is not self-contained, a fleeting instant that would pass into oblivion and never be retrieved. With Marina, the beauty of the eternal and the fleeting fuse, with the result that every particle of past experience which she depicts, never recedes but remains forever, to link up with the Cosmos and become one more glittering, enchanting, living element of the endless universe.

By Vitaly Patsiukov, renowned Russian art critic. Translated from the Russian by Arthur Shkarovsky- Raffe