ART EXHIBITION IVAN LEBEDEV

LOWER AUSTRIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL / HIGHER LEVEL VISUAL ARTS / MAY 2021

CURATORIAL RATIONAL

Self-portraits are the main theme of all my work. Looking for sources of inspiration, I haven't found a more versatile idea like self-portraits. My paintings are a reflection of me, how I see myself, feel and who I want to be. All those ideas that I have accumulated all my life, all the impressions, the study of the work of other artists - this is what resulted in my paintings. Jean Michel Basquiat, as the main inspiration for whom I began to create, struck me with his simplicity and sincerity in the paintings. In works such as "Misunderstood randomness", "Contempt, irascibility, pride" and "Contrast of split personality" you can clearly see its influence.

Drawing has become for me what many people are looking for in life, or rather, self-know-ledge. At the same time, as I paint my paintings, I think, study and evaluate my personal qualities, evaluate the experience I have done in life, even though it is not huge. Artworks "Emptiness, indifference, apathy" and "Yellowness, malice, toxicity" are vivid examples of how I am subjected to self-criticism and highlight the vices of my personality.

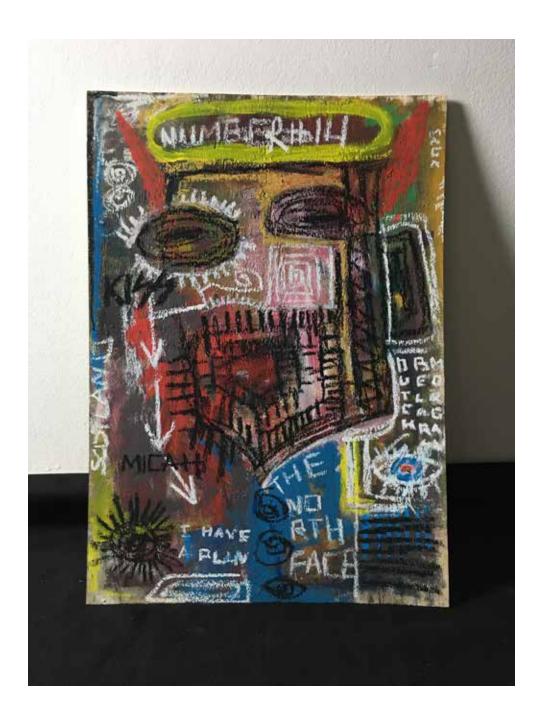
The topic of self-portraits may seem narcissistic, but I think that portraits, and not in the best possible light, with self-criticism and contradictory attitude, is not an indicator of narcissism at all. Although the painting "Honorary position" also expresses notes of narcissism, it only shows that the desire to become someone is not praising oneself in the present, but the idea of oneself in the place of another, completely different situation.

With creativity, I realized that the main thing is not the talent to draw, but the talent to express your emotions. What we have inside is much alive and natural. In the painting "Ideal portrait" I tried to show that a self-portrait is not only an image of one's external qualities, but also a disclosure of the inner world. Art has become a reason for me to think, a reason to change something in myself. The painting "Cult of personality" shows that the environment in which I grew up also affects my inner qualities, although I did not find the break of the Soviet Union, I lived in a way where everything indicated its presence, albeit in a different form. deception and insanity of some leadership positions, which resulted in a series of self-portraits as leadership positions of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

Art has given me a variety of expression of emotions, and a series of all my self-portraits can be viewed as a life path these last 2 years, this is like a chronicle that I keep myself.

CONTEMPT, IRASCIBILITY, PRIDE

Acrylic paint and oil sticks on plywood / 60 cm X 42 cm



Contempt, irascibility, pride are three words that perfectly describe me here. Contemptuous (This can be seen by squinting eyes), irascible (This is how I expressed it by drawing bright yellow, red and blue colors) and narcissistic which speaks of a halo on my head, as if I put myself above others.







UNCERTAINTY, ANGER, SEPARATENESS

Acrylic paint and oil sticks on plywood / 60 cm x 42 cm



Having painted half of the artwork with white, I left a part of myself, angry, indefinite and divided myself into before and after.

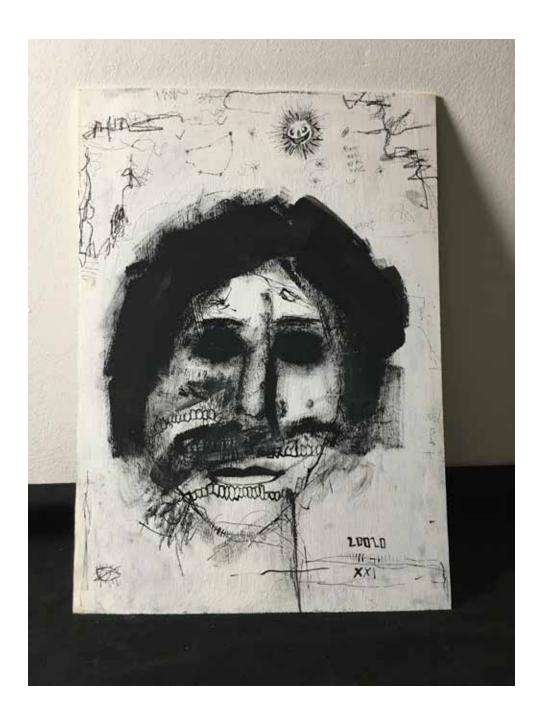






EMPTINESS, INDIFFERENCE, APATHY

Acrylic paint, japanese ink, fineliner, gouache white and oil sticks on plywood / 60 cm x 42 cm



Indifference in society - kills. A bared jaw indicates decay and death, which led me because of my emotional state, a person kills himself.







YELLOWNESS, MALICE, TOXICITY

Acrylic paint on plywood / 60 cm x 42 cm



A toxic aversion to the world and a pursuit of self-loathing. A look with a grin, ulcerative peaked skin - this is how I describe the moment of my life and convey it through this artwork.







IRRITABILITY, FEAR, VERSAILITY

Acrylic paint and oil sticks on wooden plate / 70 cm x 50 cm



Glance is the most powerful non-verbal mode of influence. It can subdue a person and set the nature of your further communication. Feelings of irritability depicted with bared teeth, fear in empty eyes, red from allergies and a versatile personality, so I tried to portray myself in this artwork.







CHOICE, ALTERNATIVE, PERSONALITY

Collage of painted cardboards (Gouache, dispersion and acrylic paint), gouache white and pencil on plywood / 60 cm x 42 cm



Taking used palettes of other students (cardboards for mixing colours), I can say I took part of their life experience. I took what people had already done. The cardboard-pallets have been used on both sides, and the choice of which side to stick always stood over me throughout the entire creation of the picture, choosing a more beautiful and interesting piece, which I cutted of cardboard.

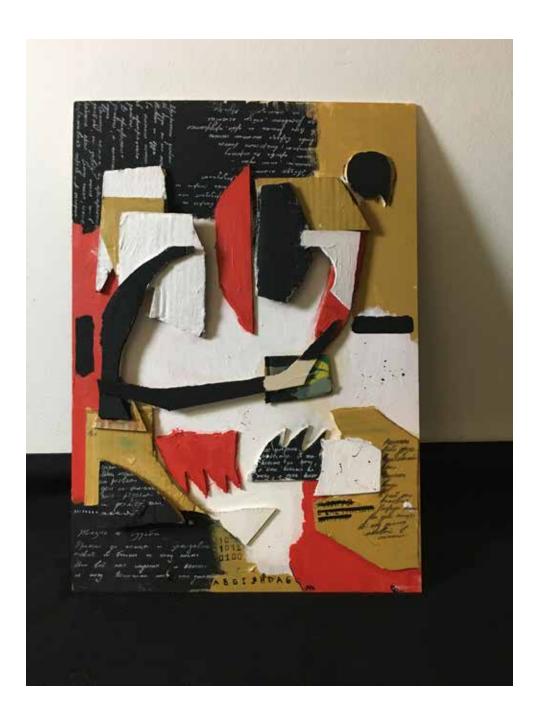






IDEAL PORTRAIT

Acrylic, gouache white, cardboard collage and japanese ink on plywood / 60 cm x 42 cm



Showing only my inner emotional world, I tried to reveal the theme of a person's inner attractiveness. If there is no face in the portrait, why can't you call it a portrait?

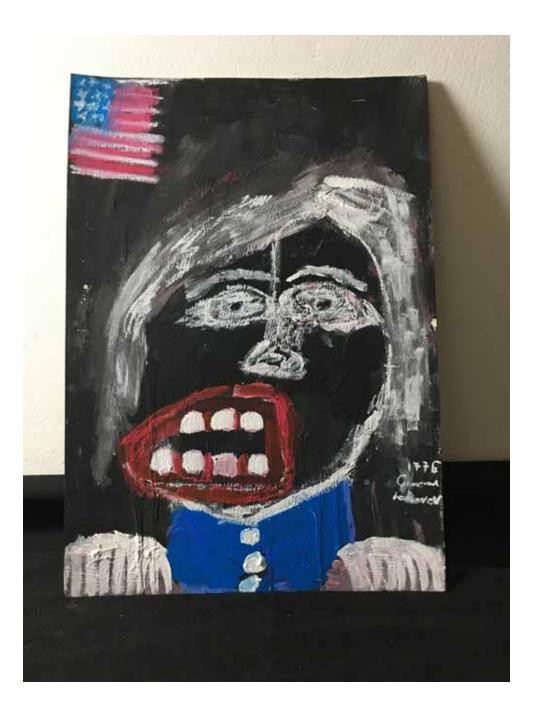






HONORARY POSITION

Acrylic paint, oil sticks and pastell on plywood / 60 cm x 42 cm



Self-portrait is not only your present state, it is that you can paint yourself whoever you want, you can do whatever you want and be who you want. Self-portrait can be used as the embodiment of dreams, as the achievement of what you want.

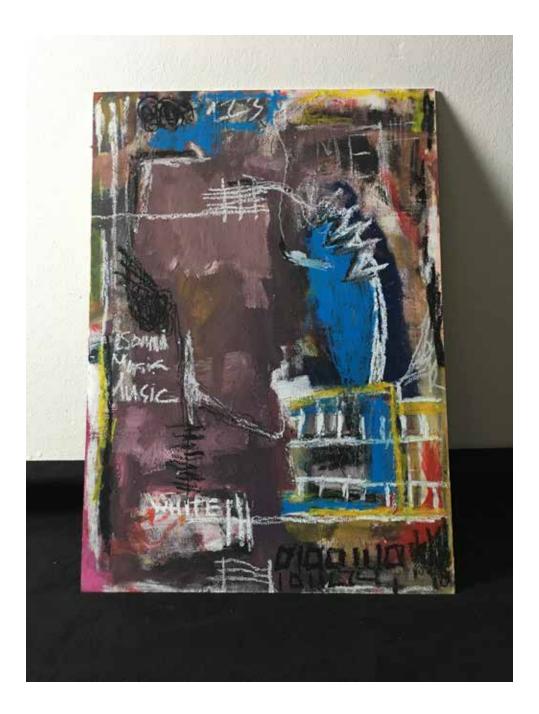






CONTRAST OF SPLIT PERSONALITY

Acrylic paint and oil sticks on plywood / 60 cm x 42 cm



Red on one side and blue on the other, shows how sometimes the image of a personality can be expressed by its split. Blue is judicious, calm and cold, red is hot-tempered, proud and stubborn personality type.7. "Ideal portrait"



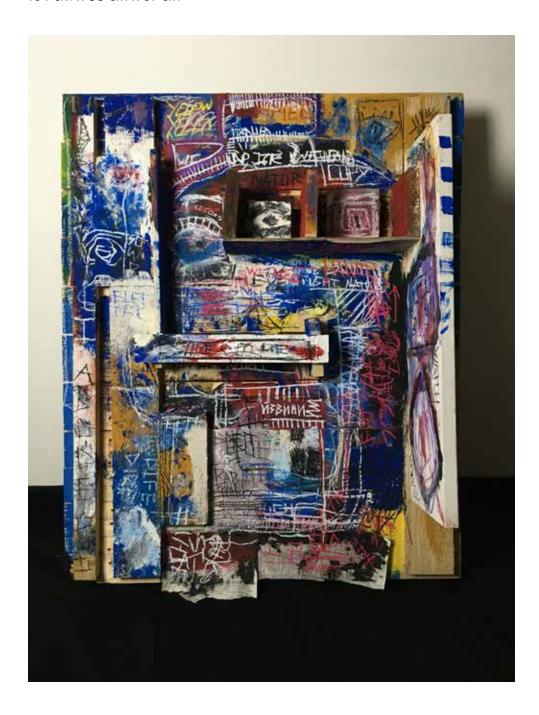






MISUNDERSTOOD RANDOMNESS

Paper collage, Acrylic paint, pastell sticks, wooden slats on wooden pallet $104~\mathrm{cm} \times 88~\mathrm{cm} \times 37~\mathrm{cm}$



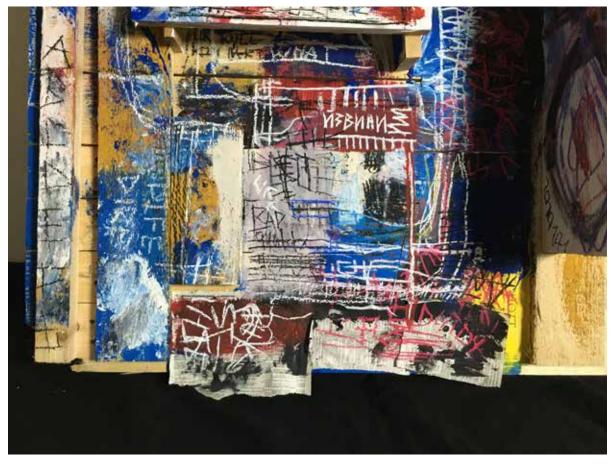
The randomness of drawing emotions is the main purpose of depicting this aspect in the artwork. An uneven convex surface with multiple angles for drawing gives unlimited possibilities in showing the emotional state of the inner world











CULT OF PERSONALITY

Stencils, Paper, Tape and Acrylic paint on wooden plate / 104 cm x 58 cm



The final picture, based on Soviet aesthetics, evokes a contradictory feeling of familiarity and fear. The cult of personality is a concept that has followed me all my creative path and this picture is the result of this.





