

The Beauty of Female Energy.

Yustina Komissarova.



Daria Yardykova

Yustina Komissarova is an artist from Saint Petersburg who explores physicality, human nature, women, and femininity in her works. Komissarova went to Saint Petersburg Stieglitz State Academy of Art and Design, where she studied interior design. Today her paintings are in private and public collections in Russia and overseas, including the Museum of Political History of Russia and museum collection of a non-profit *Art of the 21st Century*.

Komissarova's paintings are abstract acryl on canvas works with fluid, smooth shapes formed by painting overflow. Yet, one may recognize human bodies, more specifically female silhouettes that inhabit illusory abstract colorful spaces. Different density of paint allows for soft transitions of colors and smooth shapes' edges. She dries paint with a fan to achieve the right direction of lines and the degree of blur. Komissarova uses only water and acryl paint with no addition of glue or other components. Acryl properties are most suitable for the subject matter of Komissarova's paintings. Titles of her work series speak for themselves: *Feminine Collectively*, *Bioenergy*, *Bloodline*, *Fountainhead*. Smooth paint stains are associated with the natural shapes and interconnection of all living species. Komissarova plans canvas composition in advance while leaving space for improvisation during the process. That is

determined by the unpredictable nature of the technique in which you cannot always control the direction of paints' flow. Artistic experiments and the element of a chance characteristic of Komissarova's work bring it closer to the themes of nature and cosmos, which she explores in her work.



[1] «Walker», 2020 г. Canvas, acryl. 130x100 cm

The series *Before-Now-After* (2020–2021)

explores a notion of time. Artist depicts abstract wave fluctuations that, in her opinion, comprise the fabric of life (fig. 1).

Another important motif

frequent in Komissarova's paintings is the image of a woman. «I have been intrigued by the study of human nature and female nature in particular. Analyzing my own emotions and reactions, I strive to find the root cause of my thoughts and feelings. The human body for me is the only evidence of my existence, my home, myself, my ID», - says Komissarova in her interview for the Spb Telegraph.

The series *Female archetypes* (2019–2021) was inspired by deep self-analysis of Komissarova's emotions. Meditative and physical practices help the artist to know herself better. In the series artist is looking for answers to some very complex questions: «What is my true self? » and «When do I lie to myself? » The overall mood of the series is rather grim. In the *Dragon* an abstract female figure is enlaced by a blue serpent and situated in delusional and bottomless darkness (fig. 2). This black nothingness symbolizes the chaos of the



[2] «Dragon». Canvas, acryl. 126x330 cm
Courtesy of an art co-working Yasnaya Polyana, Saint-Petersburg

cosmos from which a fragile female figure stands out being captivated by a dragon. The work refers to a Biblical genesis about the original sin. Kamissarova represents it through a dramatic and mystical image of the woman who faces her dark side in solitude in a vacuum of the chaotic Universe.

In her series *Nereids* (2019–2021), Komissarova investigates femininity through the image of water – a genuinely female natural force (in ancient Greek mythology, nereids are sea nymphs or female spirits of sea waters). Cheerful other female bodies protrude from the crystal-clear blue water (fig. 3). Komissarova sees water as a beneficial, purifying element that gives birth to forms anew. The flowing contour of acrylic outlines the quivering curves of the female body.



[3] «Renaissance» (fragment), 2020.
Canvas, acryl. 170x85 cm

The primary themes of the *9 months* series are motherhood and the beginning of a new life. It was painted during the artist's pregnancy and was documenting her inner experience of that state.



[4] «The secret side of myself». Canvas, oil.
80x60 cm

The mood of works varies a lot. In primarily monochrome paintings, the artist translates aggression she felt from the outer world. (fig. 4). In comparison, polychrome works translate her worries and excitement for upcoming changes. «My works are reflections of a new human being, my fears, and prejudice as well as happiness from the birth of a new life»– says Komissarova about the series.

Natural flowing forms, alternating abstract shapes and impressive coloristic skills of Komissarova make images she creates and her painterly technique inseparable. She focuses on themes of human nature and femininity in all its manifestations. They are interpreted through abstract and nearly abstract colorful forms that are well aligned with acryl properties creating a unique unity of form and meaning.