

GRAPHIC VARIATIONS

The **OSCE Office in Minsk** will be hosting a graphics exhibition displaying Belarusian artists. The exhibition is jointly organized with the Goethe Institute. Opening hours, on week days from 10:00 to 12:00 and 15:00 to 17:00, at the address: Prospekt Gazety Pravda, 11 – OSCE Office. The entrance is free. The following artists will be on display:

Valeri Slauk (Minsk)
Yuri Yakovenko (Grodno)
Nikolai Kozlov (Minsk)
Roman Sustov (Minsk)

Official opening: 9 October at 18:30

Valeri Slauk is often called “the classic of the Belarusian graphics”. Being mainly associated with easel and book graphics, the works of V. Slauk have often made up a theme of arts researches. The graphics of V. Slauk always reflect the internal feelings and emotional experiences of the artist. Each graphic work discovers a harmonious world, whose perfection does not leave any room for objections. The artist does not impose his will; to the contrary, he gently invites the visitors to live through and experience their own feelings, dreams and visions.

Yuri Yakovenko, a Grodno-based artist, is associated with a generation of Belarusian graphic artists, known for their impressive international performance in mid-1990s. The artist experiments a lot and technology plays an important role in his works. Artistically speculating with his craft, Y. Yakovenko hides his unique attitude to the big world in the complicated system of symbols and digits, glittering and non-humanly made textures, filigree strokes and small formats. The exhibition exposes six works from his series “The Muse”.

Nikolai Kozlov has illustrated some 150 books. The most famous of them are “Robinson Crusoe” by D. Defoe, “Fairy-tales” by E.T.A. Goffman, “Adventures of Baron Munchausen” by E. Raspe, “Alice in wonderland” by L. Carroll, “Rubai” by O. Haiam“. Easel graphic series include “Old toys”, “The Parade”, “Metareliefs” and “Vigilias”. Four works from his series “Fantasus” (2005-8), shown at the exhibition, are characterized by some general features – the existence in a single, exceedingly grotesque and associative space. Grotesque is present not only in the compositional structure of works but also in colour and graphic resolution of each work. All works contain only four or five colours: black, gray, red and yellow with minor variations.

The works of **Roman Sustov** are noted for their outstanding level of graphic craftsmanship and a sophisticated sense of balance of composition elements either within just one page or within a whole series. The space of works is saturated with fantastic characters, complicated figures and decorative details. Elegant silhouettes, the love for fine strokes and lines emphasize the uniqueness of works, echoing the high traditions of European book illustrations. The exhibition shows some new works of R. Sustov, finished in 2008 – lithography works “The Evening”, “The Sunrise”, “The Gold” as well as etching, such as “The Gentle Universe”, “The Unconquerable”, “The Broken Dreams”, “Loneliness”, and “The Foundation”.

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