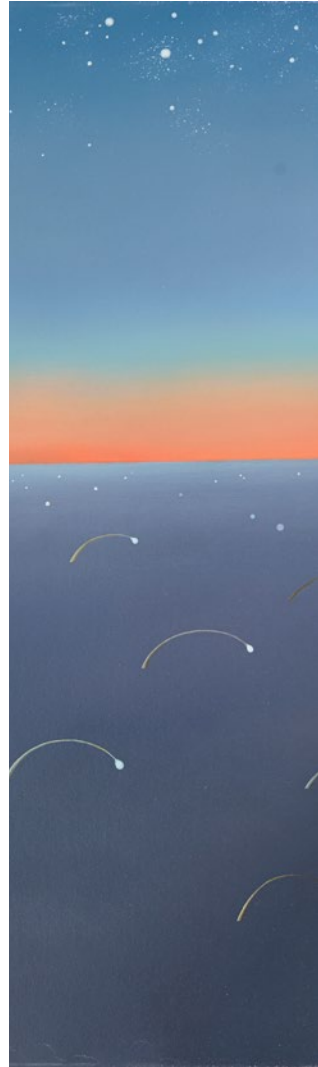


Island Life

REDSEA GALLERY PRESENTS WHIMSICAL WORKS BY ANNA BEREZOVSKAYA
BY TANYA SINGH



Clockwise from top left: Anna Berezovskaya, 'E-mail or Bell For A Cat', 2017, oil on canvas, 100 x 100cm; Anna Berezovskaya, 'Birthday Together', 2017, oil on canvas, 100 x 150cm; Anna Berezovskaya, 'Sea Battle', 2017, oil on canvas, 100 x 100cm; Anna Berezovskaya, 'Winter Dream or a Dressmaker's Island', 2017, oil on canvas, 70 x 70cm.

Images courtesy the artist and REDSEA Gallery.



Art is a lot of things: a picture on the wall, a reflection of the artist's personality, a cherished memory, a collector's item, and so on. But above all, art is an experience, and this comes through strongly in Russian artist Anna Berezovskaya's richly narrative artworks, which will be on display at REDSEA Gallery from 12 May to 10 June 2018.


The artist is known to work thematically, such as through nature or music, and her current series of works is inspired by a childhood memory. "When I was a child, all my friends dreamed of living in the big cities, but I wanted to build my own world, my own island," she recalls. The artist found her "island" in her studio in the small town of Dmitrov where she ultimately always returns to and where she is the happiest.

Through these works, with evocative titles such as 'Birthday Together' and 'Cherry Garden', Berezovskaya wants to encourage the viewers to find their own "island". Her compositions include a quiet birthday celebration with a loved in the middle of the ocean; a memorable walk in a cherry garden exemplified by obliviousness to others; a solitary journey into the world of technology; or a deep sleep adorned with vivid dreams. They all emphasise the importance of standing still amidst the commotion around us and taking the time to experience happiness.

Indeed, Berezovskaya's picturesque and theatrical works eloquently articulate the arduous pursuit of happiness that every one of us can relate to, while establishing an engaging dialogue with the viewer's psyche. They seduce the viewer into both a contemplative introspection and a whimsical journey into the depths of their imaginations. While talking about her objectives as a painter, she says, "When I paint, I try to imagine the interiors the painting will live in and how it will complement the lives of its future owners. I do not want my painting to dominate, but to be considerate in coaxing emotion out of people".

Berezovskaya's artistic process is governed by the synchronicity linking the different elements of the composition that vie for the viewer's attention. Starting from preliminary sketches of the painting's setting at large as well as its subjects, she gradually builds up the piece by adding complementary, detailed drawings until the composition is completed to her satisfaction. "All the details in my works make sense, and are connected with the heroes of my paintings," she explains.

Only after the first draft is finalised does Berezovskaya begin the process of transferring the prepared composition onto her canvas, all the while mindful of her creative intuition. "I improvise a lot, but improvisation is good only when it is prepared," says the artist, who cleverly uses her colours to create drama and induce sentiment in her works. She notes, "Colour is very important to me, as it plays a key emotional role in my works."

With an illustrative, unrestrained imagination and a polished technique, Anna Berezovskaya brings universal experiences to life on her canvases and creates compositions that emphasise and celebrate the magical, experiential qualities of art. 

More information at
redseagallery.com.