

## Contemporary Art - from Past to Future

**During less than the last 10 years contemporary art scene in Russia has been expanding; many art spaces opened and artists have more opportunities to be noticed and show their work.**

13 October 2015

In 2011 President Dmitry Medvedev stated: "Some people may mistakenly assume that current contemporary art exists only in foreign countries. It's is deceptive to think that in Russia people have no interest in it." His outgiving precisely reflected prevailing sentiments in our society about contemporary art at the time.



Photo: Matvey Sokolsky

Nevertheless, contemporary art always finds its way to the hearts of the audience. Thanks to forward thinking private initiatives, there is much to be seen. These days our capital city is positively comparable with any of the world's major cities. Among numerous positive advancements, Centre for contemporary Arts 'MARS' and Museum of contemporary art 'Garage' are vivid examples.

In the early 90's the environment was completely different. In order to get international recognition contemporary Russian artists had to show their work through foreign galleries.

Renowned Fund "Vozrojdenie" undertook the initiative to shift the situation. It was founded in 1989 by influential artists in Russia, such as Tair Salakhov, Mikhail Anikushin, Julian Rukavishnikov, Mihail Chemiakin and Zurab Tsereteli and supported by younger generation of aspiring entrepreneurs. Back then, the Fund Vozrojdenie started successful collaboration with the Russian World Gallery that actively promoted plentiful of prominent art masters, as Ernst Neizvestny, Oleg Tselkov, Rustam Khamadov and others. Until today, the Fund has been

successfully operating and over 25 years continuing to support contemporary art projects of the highest standard.

A while ago, the Fund Vozrojedine noticed a young, vivacious representative of the Russian art scene an artist Sweet Samson. Critics and experts' attention were attracted not only by the artist's works, but, as well as, by quite unconventional techniques she applies.

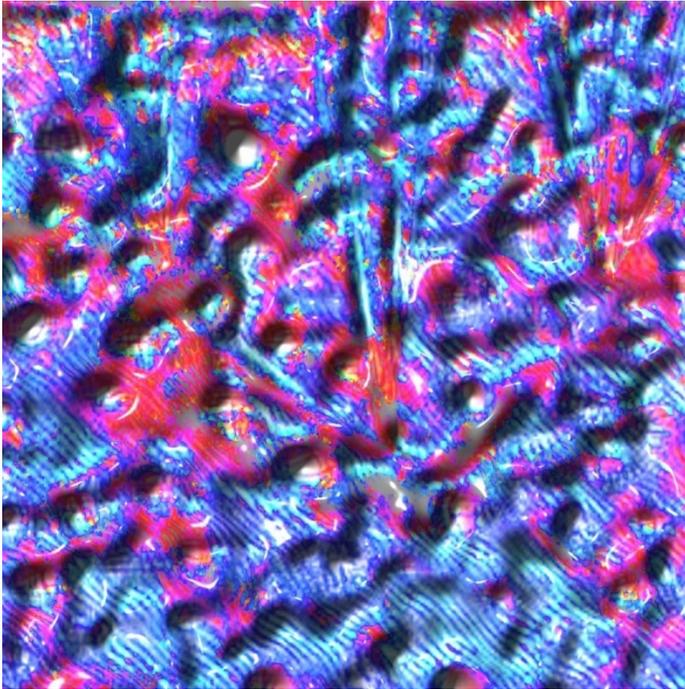


Photo: Matvey Sokolsky

"Experiments with *Dynamic Carbon*, as the artist calls it, lead to the formation of own, unique language that transforms the traditional notions of abstraction into voluminous objects of distinctive visual perceptibility. Such objects are conversions, transitioning from a realm of flatness into optical three dimensionality," commented Irina Meleshkevich, a gallerist and curator of Art Manage and Hudgraph Art Fairs.

Samson uses technological materials such as carbon fiber, vinyl and other contemporary materials. Merging minimalistic and high-tech strokes, while incorporating elements of various styles and playing with compositional divergences, the artist skillfully reflects a contemporary momentum. Her works are genuinely impressive in unexpected ways. They fascinate by their visual appearance, as well as, superb technological proficiency.

Several of her works are already a part of the permanent collection of "Vozrojenie" Fund, whose acquisition estimates over five hundred works of contemporary art.

"As some other contemporary artists, Sweet Samson did not want to restrict her practice by traditional means. She has courageously experimented with techniques and materials over 8 years, explored their textures and structures, and eventually discovered her own creative solution," commented Natalia Georgadze, a chief curator of the international art project "East-West".

Matvey Sokolsky

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