

Press Release

"It is only when the painter is in possession of the vision and the details of the outer world that he begins to paint. The execution, instantaneous and rhythmic, thus become a projection of the shapes of external reality as well as of the inner world of the artist... It is the stroke that unifies the mind of man and the universe. While revealing the irresistible instincts of man, the stroke remains faithful to external reality."
Francois Cheng, "Empty and Full"

In-Gate Gallery is pleased to present *Age of Wisdom*, a solo exhibition by Vladimir Semenskiy (b.1968 in Imantau, Kazakhstan), on view from **18 February** until **8 April, 2023**.

For his first exhibition with the gallery the artist selected the artworks from 2020–2022 and created an installation which refer to one of Vladimir Semenskiy's favorite themes—human's nature as a kaleidoscope of feelings, emotions and states, human's life as a time flow, the sequence of brief moments witch never repeat. The exposition includes paintings with oil on canvas and a collection of sketches.

The philosophical aspect doesn't change the artist's creative mood and his perception of life, which is full of emotions, childish spontaneity and easiness. Maybe it explains why the universe of childhood is one of the favorite themes of Semenskiy's works—the artist's spirit exists in the same emotional space and shares a lot of personal features with his young models.

Artistic creation is an exciting game for Vladimir Semenskiy, his way to express admiration for life and to invite the viewer to share the beauty and the poetry of everyday moments imprinted in his artworks.

Colors and shapes, which exist in the permanent movement and development, a game of brush traces, strokes, and spots, filled up with the smile of the artist and the sense of excitement for the simple events of life.

Vladimir Semenskiy's painting balances on the edge of a large-format sketch and expressive painting, his images have a recognizable form, but at the same time are filled with movement, vital and mobile color matter.

Images arise and exist on the verge of figurative and abstract, at the dot of conversion vibrations and impulse of energy into the material and visible form.

Semenskiy's paintings are always based on personal unobjectivized links and codes of the artist. It's a classical material for a plastic composition at times looking more like dancing than drawing. Painting by Semenskiy is an action that boils down to establishing a brief and direct link with reality. The substance of that link is the meaning of his artworks.

The artist discovers painting as the language and form of that link, or rather painting makes that link obvious. All things in the world, all its components are interrelated, and this relationship is seen in their plastic movements. This eurythmy becomes a pictorial form, it dictates its structure and gives birth to the image. Streams that become color envelop bodies and give them the shape, making them visible. They seem to make real people gesticulate the way they do, act the way they do and say the things they say. For an instant the unstable unity of the universe takes shape and is captured on canvas. Semenskiy makes the direction and duration of inner bodily movements visible, the movements of bodies that make up space, which he explores and in doing so, discovers the need to work with the language of painting.

His painting is corporeal and speaks of the body, which is composed of unpredictable inner movements. It is both intimate and eccentric. It grows out of a runaway and intuitive spirit and speaks of freedom as an indispensable prerequisite for the emergence of man.

The children painted by Vladimir Semenskiy, or the kindergarten, which he observes from without, the garden of continuous natural flourishing and development, are, of course, not merely concrete personages or a poetical metaphor. Be it a portrait or figure, it is a vacant shape, nearly an icon-painting formula, which is filled with actual moving and living materiality of painting. Shapes are filled not with a ready-made text, but with the material of which the text is assembled, the language per se and the raw matter of art. A human appears in that language, in painting, not as an abstraction or generalization, but as an instant of the unpredictable and disorderly chaos of manifestation, of something indistinct, that forms part of individual personal experience, of what we call humanness.

Vladimir Semenskiy was born in 1968 in Imantau, Kazakhstan. He studied in Academy of Arts named after Ilia Repin in St.Petersburg. Before 2022 the artist lived between Crimea, Moscow and Europe.

The artworks were exhibited at:

Museum of National History, Denmark (Brewer J.C. Jacobsen's Portrait Award) (2015),
ART MIAMI NEW YORK, New York, USA (2015),
CONTEXT ART NEW YORK, New York, USA (2016),
CONTEXT ART MIAMI, Miami, USA (2016, 2017),
ART WYNWOOD, Miami, USA (2017),
COSMOSCOW, Moscow, Russia (2017),
ART RUSSIA FAIR, Moscow, Russia (2020, 2021).

Selected solo exhibitions include *Terminal*, M. Kroshitsky Art Museum, Sevastopol, Crimea (2014),
Relevant Antiquities, Erarta Galleries of Contemporary Art, Saint Petersburg, Russia (2010),
SEMENSKIY: Within The Structure, CUBE Art-center, Moscow, Russia (2020).