



Zoia SKOROPADENKO: MILK and COFFEE DRINKERS

Art for Thought Gallery 銀座8-10-4 和孝銀座8丁目ビル 1F Chuo-ku, Ginza, Tokyo, Japan

Exhibition Dates: Saturday 12th November - Wednesday 30th November 2016

The “**COFFEE DRINKER AND MILK**” exhibition is a first exhibition in Japan of renown series of linocuts by Monaco artist Zoia Skoropadenko.

Series or linocut Coffee Drinkers and oil sculptured paintings MILK had a great reviews throughout Europe.

“**COFFEE DRINKERS**” is a series of linocuts depicting scenes of everyday life in a random cafe as well as reimagining 17th century classical portraits with inspiration by triptychs of Francis Bacon.

The initial inspiration for the series came indirectly from Musee d’Orsay in Paris where Skoropadenko is from time to time working as a copyist. After her art routine in the museum she usually has a stroll around the museum, enjoying and studying the work of the predecessors. Among them were paintings by world famous artists depicting **Absinthe drinkers** by a range of artists from Degas, Manet, Picasso and Toulouse Lautrec. Absinthe wasn’t the most cheerful or kind of drinks and the pictures reflect that, however Absinthe was a drink of its time as critical then as coffee is now.

Zoia says: “The difference between Coffee and Absinthe and café life was as clear as the Hogarth prints of Beer Street and Gin Alley. The idea of a positive Café life excited me. With this series of linocuts “**COFFEE DRINKERS**” I am depicting a drink of today and its drinkers. And my choice was coffee because it is a universal beverage which retains an infinite uniqueness. Unlike a Cola, or a famous beer, no two coffees are ever the same. Coffee is an antidote not only to ennui, sleepiness but also to the mono- cultural norm that can make life mundane. So instead of vacant, dizzy or blank impression on the face of the Absinthe drinker, I record the smiling, alert and engaged faces of people enjoying their cup of coffee. Where ever I am, be it Paris, Monaco, London, Newport Beach or Tokyo I enjoy my morning coffees in a local cafe drinking and sketching. These linocuts are the result. The **COFFEE DRINKERS** are the portraits of friends, family, fellow- artists and random people and their animals I meet around the world”.

ITS ALL ABOUT “MILK”. Milk, another palate.

MILK is a series of oil paintings on canvas depicting Milk and favorite landscapes: Parisian cafe or skate-ring and window from childhood, Californian palms and grandmother's table, Dubai desert and Japanese Park etc.

Skoropadenko says: “I created **MILK** about five years ago. When I came back home after visiting Frieze and FIAC art markets.

The tendency on today's Art scene and Art markets is that art is something dark, scary, burnt till death, pessimistic and mostly created by man.

So I had a deep thought about the situation and came up with contradiction to everything mentioned above. I thought about the subject that should be opposite to male dark, scary, pessimistic creations and realized that light, tender, nice, optimistic, feminine and tasty is the liquid we called **MILK**. Every painting of old masters we can find in Louvre and other museums these days that has a jar of milk in it makes the painting and environment always cozy, lighter and arouse nice warm feelings of childhood.

I love painting still-lives, It was my "thing" in Art Academy. I was more than happy to create such a project. But I didn't want to paint a classical still-life, so I thought to create a contemporary twist. Which appeared to be a monochrome oil paintings on small canvases.

All paintings are not painted but sculpted. Their relief bodies shine with the right light.”

Each painting feature one of THREE PRIMARY COLORS: either blue or red or yellow. BLUE - for cold MILK, RED (in this case Pink) - for fresh out-of-cow MILK, YELLOW - boiled hot MILK. Every painting depicting a glass or bottle or other glass vessel with Milk in it.

Zoia added that “Later in my project I started to incorporate my favorite landscapes and people at the background. I do sketch and draw everyday when I am having morning coffee and while I am traveling. So I have lots of sketches which I use in my projects”.

Today in MILK project you can find Burj Khalifa from Dubai, Parisian Cafe where Skoropadenko eating while in Paris, Monaco port, an old man thinking about his childhood with a glass of MILK on his table, Californian Palms and Zoia's window and a table from her childhood.

Location	Art For Thought Gallery 銀座8-10-4 和孝銀座8丁目ビル 1FChuo-ku, Ginza. Tokyo, Japan
Opening Hours	11am-5pm
Admission	Free
Getting there	The closest metro stations are Ginza Station.
Twitter	@Zoiaskoropadenk, #Coffeedrinkers #MILK
Instagram	zoiaskoropadenko #coffeedrinkers #MILK
Facebook	zoiaskoropadenko
Website	http://artforthought.jp www.zoiaskoropadenko.com

“Coffee drinkers surrounded by coffee drinkers”
The Zoia Skoropadenko exhibition at Gallery La Cafeotheque Paris,
October 2014

Seen by Christina Chirouze Montenegro, curator

When I first met Zoia, it was around a cup of coffee. She was in advance, patiently waiting for our meeting time, sketching, and drinking an “espresso du jour” at La Caf  oth  que. That was my first impression of the great Zoia: sketching and drinking coffee.

And actually that was what she had been doing for several years: meeting people in coffee shops, having a cup of coffee prepared according to the local tradition. Then, she used to ask them if they agreed to be her model, sketching with fast and precise gestures. And then, in her workshop, she made wonderful and colorful linocuts out of those first sketches. All of the works tell stories about those moments, when the coffee flavor inspired her, and when she watched attentively the way her friends, family members, or absolute foreigners usually drink their coffee.

Each linocut has not only an atmosphere but also almost a scent, almost a flavor. Each one is dedicated to a way of drinking coffee: filter in Japan, “noisette” in Paris, espresso in the Eurostar, latte in New York, cappuccino in Monaco...At La Cafeotheque, those characters seem to be alive, having a cozy pause with their fellow coffee drinkers...

