

Vladimir Isaev

Interview with The Museum of Everything



I work in construction and as a lecturer at the Nizhny Novgorod State University of Architecture and Civil Engineering. Most of my work is dedicated to the environmental issues caused by human interaction with nature. Please describe your art. My work deals with the problematic relationship between nature and mankind. Mankind is cruel to nature. He creates problems for himself and for his soul. I've lived a long time and have seen many things. But I

have never encountered any other artist who dedicated his life to this theme.

When did you start?

I have been fond of drawing since I was seven or eight years old. I initially started working on this theme in the 1990s. It was very difficult for me, because nothing seemed to come out right. Then I gradually found my own style and it took off by itself. The human soul is like a heavenly crystal. If you look closely at my paintings, you'll see they consist of different elements, tracing mankind from his natural origins to his modern industrial state. The harsh facts of mankind's evolution means there's nothing pure left in us humans anymore ... nothing except our souls. I even wrote a poem about it!

Let's hear it!

As always we complain about the weather:
Relentless rain, fierce hail, demonic sleet
Or not to mention - deadly heat.
Oh heavens tell us pray
For whom this violent display?
The heavenly gates are torn asunder,
Revealing skies of blue: Spoilt children of
mankind - for you!
But have you lost your wits and reason?
Destruction and disease you bring It's time to
end this deadly treason
The earth is clenched in suffering.
We must retreat, make way, Apologise before the
earth and sky?
"What? Not in our lifetime! Why?"

But our days are numbered, so they say.

Tell us about your professional life.

I am a builder by profession and I work in industrial and civil construction. I've been building factories and houses all my life. Now I am a professor at the university. I've also been making art all my life, as an amateur. Museums aren't very keen on non-professional artists ... which is why I decided to take part in your project!

Vladimir Isaev

1939-2015 (Nizhny Novgorod, Russia)

The faces of the divine peer out through verdant foliage in the private painting practice of this architectural professor and construction engineer, whose intimate environmental debate spreads out like the oils he pumps straight from the tube.