TARAS BOROVYK
Agora Gallery

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

Taras Borovyk works in a wide array of media, from acrylic on cork to oil on canvas to wood and metal sculpture. His work is often highly saturated, smooth lines of color layering and surrounding one another in fractured views of the world. Vivid pigments layer over one another to create compositions that render architecture in vivid orange and silver, or trees in crisp red in front of soft blocks of green to build the silhouettes of city buildings. Borovyk’s paintings have a quality like woodblock: small, sharp strokes interfere with portions of color unexpectedly as planes of pigment mingle and, at the same time, are sharply delineated. Selectively thick brushstrokes or cork board shapes interfere with this flat, faceted, and imaginative use of color.

"I do not create art unless it creates itself as I work," Borovyk says. For him, the work in a way creates itself, both as he paints or sculpts and as viewers return again and again with new interpretations.

Growing up in Lviv, Ukraine, Taras Borovyk was surrounded by Austrian, Polish, Russian, and Ukrainian architecture and art, influences of which can be found in his bold hues and eye for architecture.

ARTIST STATEMENT

I do not create art unless it creates itself as I work. It is like a ghost that appears when I pick up the brush. Whether I see a doorway or a still life that is abstracted in my view, or remember a piece of music that takes shape on canvas, it all becomes a part of the next place I am going to visit. It guides me through as it develops.

It is my hope that the viewer should discover new things with each viewing for the rest of his life, as my work will change over time with the possessor. Life will inform the view and the piece will become more available with each consideration.
The artist in his studio
TARAS BOROVYK  Painting as a Partnership

February 12-March 3, 2016
Opening Reception: Thursday, February 18, 6-8pm

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Artist Taras Borovyk fills his vibrantly colored paintings and stark, elegant sculptures with style and technique, though the artist doesn’t hold himself limited to either. In his paintings, which are mostly executed in oils on canvas, Borovyk covers a wide range of subjects—still lifes, figure studies, landscapes and abstract compositions—with a consistently bold approach to both color and composition.

Making the most of the power of basic shapes and clear, forcefully drawn lines, Borovyk creates images that juxtapose flat, clean areas of color with subtly textured and shaded backgrounds. The resulting works have the depth and dimension of more traditionally realistic painting, while also exhibiting the graphic precision of abstract art.

Born and raised in the Ukrainian city of Lviv, the artist acknowledges the influences of his native culture both through his choice of subject material and his color palette. His scenes taken from nature, his still lifes and interiors, and his street scenes of both Lviv and Kiev, with their distinctive Eastern European-style architecture, all demonstrate the day-to-day life that has made such an impact on the artist’s work. In addition, the colors he uses show the influence of Ukrainian cultural traditions.

"The thick, bold colors that I use," he says, "are natural to Ukrainian culture and national art."

Borovyk has worked as a mural and exhibition designer, work which entails a great deal of consideration to how the viewer will connect with his end product. Of course, this has had a strong effect on how he conceives of his present work as a sculptor and painter. "It is my hope that the viewer should discover new things at each visit," he says, and the mixture of simplicity with an aura of mystery that he achieves gives each piece a multiplicity of meanings. One piece, depicting a building with trees in the foreground, can be seen as inspired by stained glass, abstract art, or iconic realism all at once, making it open to different interpretations over time. Or a more abstract view of a bowl of flowers or a human figure can reveal over time the reality of the scene beneath.

Perhaps the most unique thing about Borovyk’s work is the stance he takes toward the process of creation. For him, creating a work of art is a sort of partnership between the artist and the piece he is working on. "I do not create art unless it creates itself as I work," he says. That openness and spontaneity adds yet another level to the complexity of his images and makes them all the more appealing to the viewer.

Taras Borovyk will be exhibiting his work at Agora Gallery in the exhibition Fragmented Reality from February 12th to March 3rd, 2016. The opening reception, on February 18th from 6 to 8 PM, will be open to the public.