

I began my career as an artist in 1987. During this time I managed to try myself in different directions and styles. For more than 25 years I worked in the style of the Vienna School of Fantastic Realism. Since 2016, I began to create paintings in an abstract style and abstraction carries me farther and deeper. Now I understand that abstraction is the most difficult direction in the philosophical understanding in the visual arts. Abstraction gives me the opportunity to pose and solve various problems. Now my task in the visual arts is to create opportunities to expand the boundaries of consciousness through visualization. I am convinced and I know for sure that the perception of many people is very limited by rigid frames that do not allow us to see and feel the world more multidimensionally. Moreover, many parts of this limited perception of the world appear in the minds of most people in the form of illusions, in essence being a fraud. Recently, I came to the conclusion that it is abstract art with correctly selected elements of sacred geometry that is able to exert the highest degree on the perception of the world and expand consciousness. Each of my creative work is an intention to draw attention to those dimensions of the world that are not perceived and felt by most people. Parts of the world that are considered to be invisible and not perceived may well suddenly open to everyone whose consciousness is rebuilt. My creative goal is to create works that reconfigure human consciousness and allow us to perceive the world in its fuller manifestation, with the obligatory ability to interact with previously unperceived parts of it. I am convinced that abstract conceptual art has a huge underestimated potential in the field of expansion of consciousness. With each new work, I strive to increase and strengthen the visual impact on the consciousness of the viewer, which ultimately will necessarily affect the perception of the world in its fuller expression.

## **ARTIST BIOGRAPHY**

**Julius Likh** is the artist's pseudonym.

The artist was born in the USSR in Minsk in 1972, in the family of an officer of the Soviet Army.

*The artist's childhood in the East Germany / GDR.* 

Immediately after birth, Julius Likh moved with his mother to his father in the city of Bernau bei Berlin.

The artist's father, seeing the talent for drawing from his son, from the age of 6 began to hire painting and drawing teachers for his training. Among the artist's teachers there were many recognized German masters of painting and graphics, he successfully studied with them from 6 to 12 years. Private lessons allowed the young artist to get a very good level of mastery of

the technique of oil painting and graphics. While still at school, he began to participate in thematic youth exhibitions, where he received awards for his best paintings.

Childhood and youth of the artist in Czechoslovakia

In 1984, Julius Likh's father was transferred to a new duty station in Czechoslovakia, in the city of Turnov. Immediately after moving to Turnov in 1984, the young artist began to attend the school of fine arts in Turnov. From the age of 15, Julius Likh began to participate in adult art exhibitions, in almost all the works of that period were in the style of socialist realism. Julius Likh continued his studies at the art school in Turnov until 1989.

In 1989, Julius Likh entered the higher art college in the city of Turnov to specialize as an artist-restorer. He graduated as an artist in 1993.

By 1990, the interests of the artist began to change. Impressed by the works of Hieronymus Bosch, Salvador Dali and Ernst Fuchs, the artist began to try himself in the style of the Vienna school of fantastic realism. The plot of the artist's paintings was also influenced by his enthusiasm for the works of Sigmund Freud, Alfred Adler, Karl Gustav Jung. Passion for the study of psychoanalysis continued until 1994, which was reflected in most of the paintings from 1991-1996. The surrealistic works of Julius Likh of that period were replete with anthropomorphic figures combined with the multilayered spaces and dimensions. The general rigidity and contrast of the compositions created a feeling of graphicness in oil-painted images.

Most of the works from 1991-2015 were made in the style of the Vienna School of Fantastic Realism. A great influence on the artist was influenced by his acquaintance with the work of the Austrian artist Ernst Fuchs (1930-2015), with whom he had been acquainted personally since 1991.

## *Creative period 1994-2016.*

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the artist decided to get closer to the Russian school of painting and began to attend art academies in Minsk, Moscow and St. Petersburg to attend painting courses there. By 1996, the artist has his own style in painting and graphics. The first place in his works is the filigree and clarity of lines in oil painting. Not typical hard graphics for oil painting in the paintings of Julius Lick allowed to find an original personal style. The artist's paintings and drawings are also filled with complex fantastic compositions, hidden meanings and symbols. Continuing to work in the style of the Vienna school of fantastic realism, the artist eventually changes the color saturation of his early youthful works to a more calm and restrained color scheme, sometimes bordering on monochrome or even using the grisaille technique. The semantic content of the work also gradually changes and begins to move away from psychoanalytic and surrealistic plots in the field of mysticism and esotericism.

Since 1999, the artist's paintings have been filled with complex semantic messages that are interesting to decode from different points of view. The new food for the artist's work was philosophy.

## Creative period 2016-2019.

Since the end of 2015, under the influence of the works of Anselm Kiefer and Gerhard Richter, the artist completely goes into the abstract style of painting, preserving his

individual style. A new impulse of the artist is the desire to break the border between the visible and hidden worlds using artistic techniques.

## Exhibitions:

- 1988. Participation in the exhibition "Solidarity", Mlada Boleslav (Czechoslovakia)
- 1989. Participation in the exhibition "Solidarity", Mlada Boleslav (Czechoslovakia)
- 1989. Participation in the exhibition "Shield-1989", Milovice (Czechoslovakia)
- 1992. Participation in the exhibition "Fantastic Realism" Liberec (Czechoslovakia)
- 1994. Personal exhibition, casino "ADMIRAL" Minsk (Belarus)
- 1995 Personal exhibition BELARUSFILM Film Studio, Minsk (Belarus)
- 1995 Personal exhibition Youth Theater (small stage), Minsk (Belarus)
- 1996. Personal exhibition in the gallery "Medea" Minsk
- 1998. Participation in the exhibition "Faces of realities" Moscow (Russia)
- 1999. Personal exhibition, casino "ADMIRAL" Prague (Czech Republic)
- 2000. Personal exhibition "Creative Center NEMIGA" Minsk (Belarus)
- 2001. Participation in the exhibition "Dawn" Moscow (Russia)
- 2002. Participation in the exhibition "Time and Space" Moscow (Russia)
- 2003 Personal exhibition Business Center Mokhovaya Moscow (Russia)
- 2005. Participation in the exhibition "Surrealism a new resurrection", Lisbon (Portugal)
- 2008 Personal exhibition in the Mokhovaya Business Center, Moscow (Russia)
- 2009. Personal exhibition at the World Trade Center in Moscow (Russia)
- 2009. Participation in the exhibition "On the Waves of Dreams" Moscow (Russia)
- 2012. Participation in the exhibition Dusseldorf (Germany)
- 2017. Participation in the exhibition "Dialogue" Minsk (Belarus)

The artist's works are in private collections in Russia, Belarus, Poland, Germany, Israel, USA, Canada.