

A Smile to Exorcize the Evil One

The Art East Gallery Presented a Personal Exhibition of Serhiy Oleksiyenko

Photo by Oleksiy STASENKO, *The Day*



AT THE EXHIBITION'S OPENING DAY

The sculptures of this young artist invite you to humankind's prehistoric past, to the realm of pagan symbols and mystics, where everything assumes a new content and expression. "A trap for the devil" is not merely the name of the exhibition, but a kind of charm to exorcize the evil one: he finds out that there is a trap for him here, and so will not come over. This kind of draws a magic circle insurmountable for the forces of evil, which contains this exhibition. Then everything spins, like in a fast motion film: the world loses its real outlines and begins to feel the power of faceless "earth spirits." They are

tiny, almost unnoticeable, but they follow you across the hall.

Man freezes, looking at the falling stars, forgets about usual human forms and gets dissolved, begetting a creature new and unusual, but very close to the stars. Thus was born the sculpture *Pleiades*. All the works have been made in this ephemeral style, including the statues *Centaur* and *The Tsarinas*. What unites all of them is their smile. This is why every one wants to understand and squeeze them in the framework of his/her ideas, but they quietly slip away, smiling like *Gioconda*.

By Natalia PELYKH