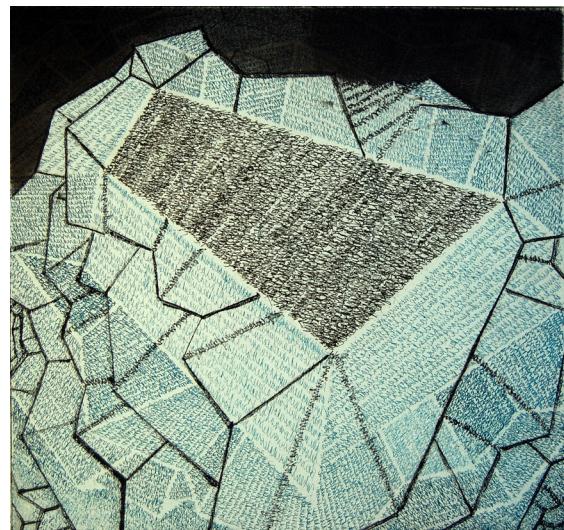


Chez Maman & Other Stories

Etchings and collages by Katerina Kyselica
April 1 - 28, 2013
Manhattan Graphics Center, New York City

Introduction by Czech artist, printmaker and writer Alena Laurova

In the beginning, there is a flow of thoughts that doesn't let her sleep. Katerina finds a way to work with it, to freeze the thoughts and express them through her prints. She plays with them in her creative process, and she does the same with the viewers. Although she shares with them the theme, she does not reveal it. Instead, she hands them in her texts for explorations, texts that actually cannot be read.



Katerina offers constructive, precise and rational compositions, with deeply experienced encrypted stories about man. The exhibition presents two series: Chez Maman (At Mom's) is a series of prints created in intaglio, which suits Katerina for its wide range of technical opportunities to support and emphasize her creative intentions. She works with multiple plates, layering them and overprinting, and combines three created motifs. If she needs a negative print, she prints the etched plate as relief, sometimes she uses a template. The central to her compositions is a table (sometimes reminiscent of a grave). One would expect the table to symbolize a happy encounter with home (or a native land), sense of belonging, harmony and peace. On contrary, for Katerina the table stands for constraining family ties and entrapment within firm social norms, imprisonment or oppression, from which only a strong free-thinking person can free himself. Katerina strives to express her inner-beliefs, her view of family, and social pressure and conventions that tie man's legs and constrain his freedom to make decisions.

The structure of surfaces in Katerina's prints is often created using handwritten text. It is not about the content, however. Using excerpts from Czech and German tales and legends, Katerina refers to and symbolizes complexities of family relationships.



The second series – collages from intaglio prints – is more direct in its symbolism. Although it follows the previous series, there is no trace of narrative. Text, as an authentic expression of freely flowing thinking in its endless current, is repeated, overlapped and layered. Both parts of the series On My Mind and In My Mind benefit from graphic qualities of writing as such. The titles themselves reveal not only the method of relief construction of the text compositions but at the same time they reflect artistic and conceptual intention of the author.

In general, interpretation and analysis of artistic works may serve the viewers as a certain manual for understanding the works. However, only if a painting, sculpture or print carries at the same time artistic qualities it could have a value. And that is the case of the two series by Katerina Kyselica.