

**People & Paintings Gallery
presents art exhibition**

SHADES OF EPHEMERALITY



07 Apr 2025 — 18 Apr 2025

Curator: Cosmina Marcela Oltean

EXHIBITION INFORMATION

When we say ephemerality we enter a vast field of existence, because everything that lives it is ultimately consumed. Thus the ephemeral includes pieces of stories, flashes, selected moments, chosen moments.

The ephemeral selects and emphasizes the essential.

By ephemeral we mean everything transitory, temporary, passing or fugitive: a sunrise, the fascinating colors of a special sunset which is completely changed when you look again, a falling leaf, the journey of a snowflake, a moment of pure joy, a smile, a moment with our loved ones, everyone's face transformed over time, a reunion, a separation, every happy or sad moment, all the memories, almost anything you can think of because everything passes, changes and is consumed by time - everything that we are and everything we live is ephemeral.

Moments slip through our fingers second by second...

The ephemeral becomes the tragic of our existence, but it is also what makes us live to the fullest, not to waste time, to add life and value to our days and years. It's such a complex concept, with so many shades, and that's why I think it's such a good artistic theme. What do you first think of when you hear the term „ephemera”? We warmly invite you to answer this question with an image to include in this exhibition.

Cosmina M Oltean, People and Paintings Gallery Curator

Autumn in the Forest

What could be more illusory than a ray of light shooting through the branches of trees in an autumn forest, penetrating into the very thick of the thicket and immediately fading away? But this ray is sent by the sun, which is constant and unchangeable!



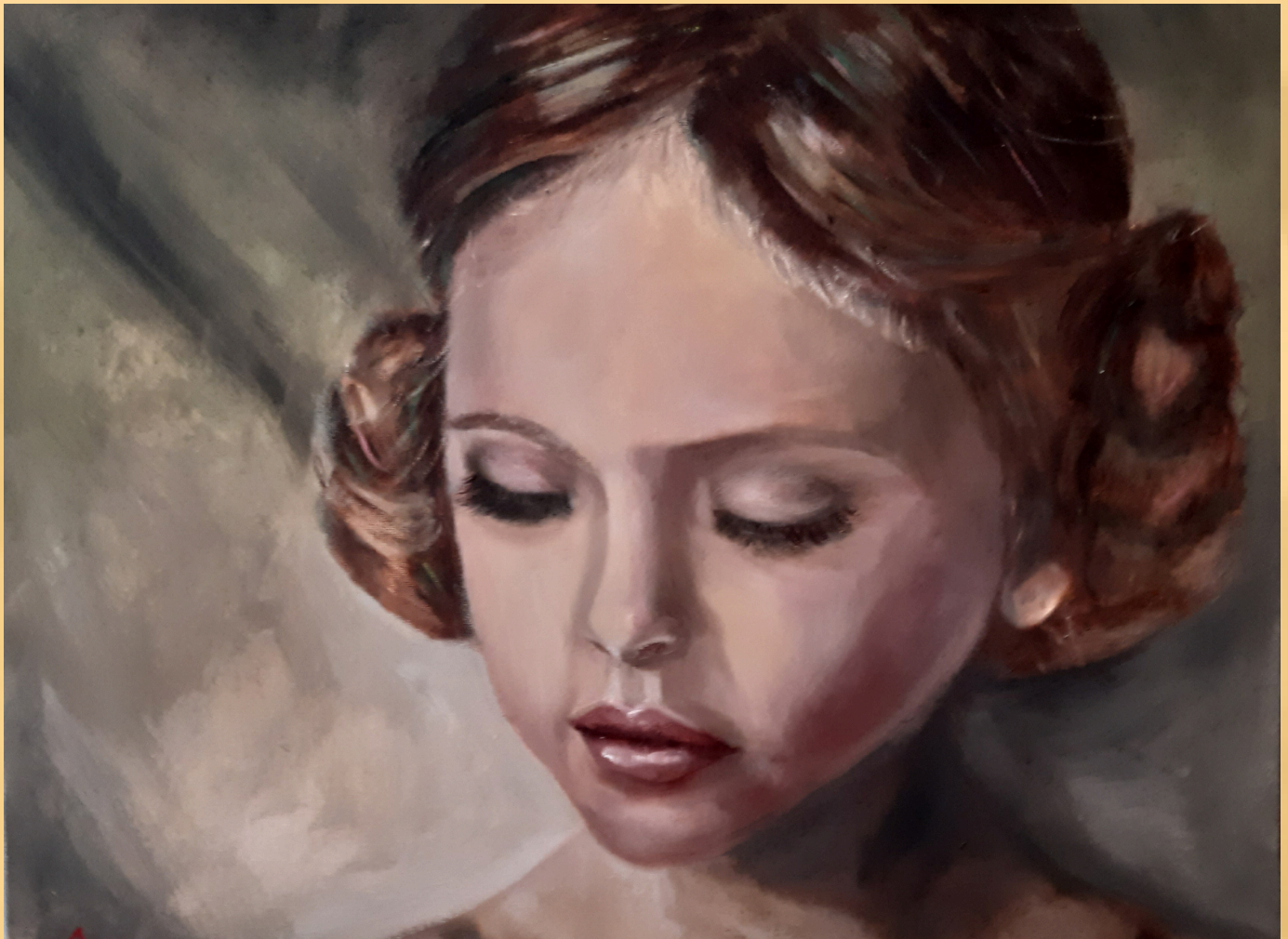
Monacuba (Russia)

Ocean's Gifts II

Mixed media: fiber paste, abalone, pearl, glass heart on cradle board



Kimberly-Ann United States)



Ballet's Fleeting Moments

Dance is ephemeral because it exists only in the moment, a fleeting performance that cannot be repeated exactly, unlike art forms like paintings or sculptures, which can be preserved.

Dance is a performance art, meaning it is a live, in-the-moment experience that unfolds and then disappears.

Dance is an interpretation, a vibration, a rhythm, and a movement, and the body transforms.

Dance is real, and it exists just for one moment for one scene

Azariah (South Africa)

The Fragility of the Moment

This painting captures the fleeting nature of moments, the delicate balance between reality and illusion. The vast ocean stretches into the distance, waves shimmering under a sky filled with movement and light. Paragliders float above, weightless and free, yet at the mercy of the wind—just like the iridescent soap bubbles drifting through the air.

This artwork is an invitation to pause, to appreciate the fleeting wonders around us, and to embrace the beauty of the ephemeral.

Nina Litvin (Israel)



Land of Memory

When we speak of ephemerality, we step into an infinite landscape—one where every moment is fleeting, every image is in transition, and everything that lives is ultimately consumed by time. My work is an exploration of this impermanence, capturing the transient beauty of the Irish landscape, where light, mist, and memory intertwine.



**Joseph
Laffan (UK)**

Interval

A walk at night-the pause for a light,
its ephemeral transition and realization-
this will automatically, endlessly reoccur
in color counterpoint with its echo
across the intersection.

Then an ephemeral inner feeling-
gratitude for such a gift
to see, feel, then create
with confidence this image,
that others will recognize
and thus share my creative process-
if only vicariously...

Douglas Allcock (US)



Autumn

Geanina M. Zaharia (US)





Seventh Day

The painting strongly affects emotions, forcing the viewer to reflect. Its symbolism is open to various interpretations, emanating an atmosphere of melancholy, loneliness and introspection, searching for identity. It could be a scene of regret, contemplating something that has been lost. The contrast between the dark background and the light body of the figure emphasizes its fragility and alienation. The use of red contours around the figure suggests intense emotions, internal anxiety, and even physical or mental pain. The presence of a shadow in the mirror adds mystery - is it a reflection of the figure or a symbol of a hidden part of its personality?

Ramsko (Poland)

A Grandparents Burden

Globally, Grandparents often serve as a surrogate parent for their grandchildren, usually as a response to a family crisis or other sociopolitical issues [e.g. poverty, war, disease, migration.] Grandparents raising grandchildren are primarily responsible for all aspects of their grandchild's care, even when the grandparent themselves have extenuating health issues. This can cause financial burdens and extra health related stress on the Grandparents.

In this picture, I depict the complacency of a child who has yet to realize the abandonment of her father. The grandmother weeps for the life her grandchild is soon to face.

Chelsie (Mexico)



Rainbow

Photography by **Leonid Slutsker (US)**



Black Gondolas

The Venice Carnival is not usually associated with the idea of passing. But I entered the carnival in 2020, on the day the Covid outbreak occurred 50 kilometres away. The carnival participants were still playing their part, but the worry was written all over their faces. The receding black gondolas in the narrow, dark canals, the discarded masks, the oppressive silence, evoked a sense of passing.

Péter Szilágyi (Hungary)





Storm Front

I love weather, and here a front comes to the Pacific Coast. This piece was done with a palette knife exclusively, and inspired by Dion Salvador Lloyd. I used Payne's Gray, Ultramarine Blue, and Phthalo Blue, as well as titanium white.

Judith Skillman (US)

Fire



Have you ever tried to catch fire? It's unforgettable experience. The wild nature of the fire attracts and wonders me.

Lesya Shulga (Ukraine)



The Light of Your Love

In this abstraction, love is like a feeling of soft, warm light, to which you expose your face, squinting with pleasure and smiling... and also, when you are in this light, you yourself become a source of love, a love that "covers everything, believes everything, hopes for everything, endures everything and never ceases...".

I created this work when my husband was in the hospital - he was facing an operation and a long course of treatment. Returning home and seeing this picture, he said: "This is about me."

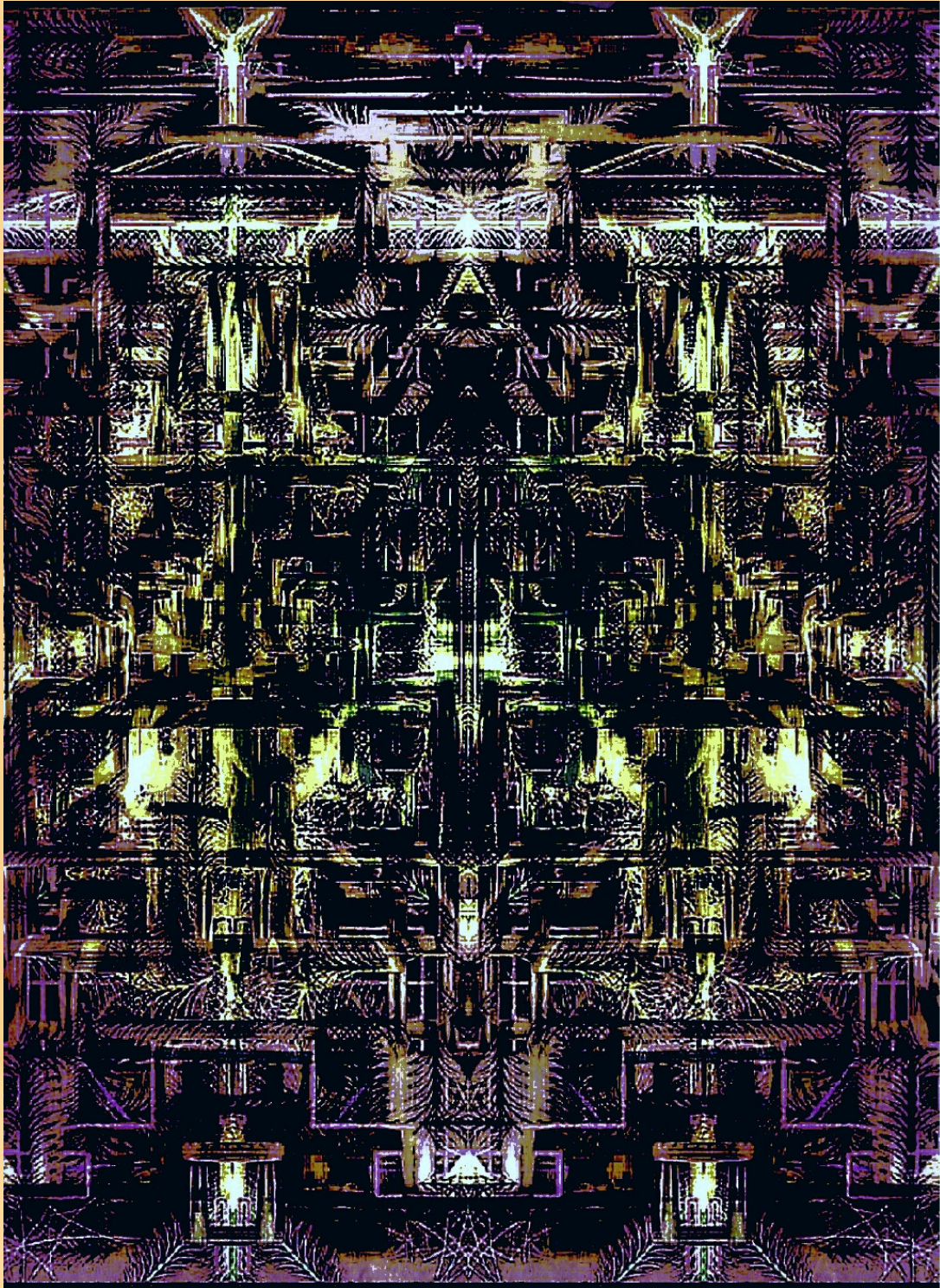
Alla Kosteleckaya (Belarus)



Photography by

Girl and Flower

Elena Zapassky (Israel)



Alchemical Shenanigans

Hazl (US)

Maternity

As fleeting as it is eternal. A moment of profound connection between a mother and her daughter, with the nature that surrounds and embraces them. How can we make that wonderful moment eternal? Perhaps only art can achieve it.

Lidia Fraquelli (Argentina)



I am Ephemeral

People are the prime example of Ephemerality. We recognize the people we know, not just by how they look outside, but also by the individual method in how they express themselves. We all love, hate, cry and scream with joy, anger and pain. We all contemplate in silence or out loud. A person's character can encompass a universe of varying thoughts and emotions, expressed in a uniquely individual way. From a never-ending palate of possibilities, the way we think, act and emote defines who we are. Isn't that a wonderful thing?



Tessie Jayme (US)



Memories of My Childhood

An increasing number of adults, especially in the United States, are dealing with chronic health conditions or disabilities. Living with a disability can significantly impact mental health. Adults with disabilities report frequent mental distress up to as much as five times more often as those without disabilities. Factors like social isolation, discrimination, and limited access to resources contribute to these challenges. Adults with disabilities are more likely to report depression and anxiety, reduced healthcare access, and health-related risk behaviors than adults without disabilities.

Chelsie (Mexico)

Posies

Posies is monoprint of flowers that never quite wanted to realize itself. This is all that would manifest. The posies have not quite entered into existence, but live in a liminal state so that they are not actually here today and gone tomorrow, but are not even quite here today.



Miss Margaret (US)

Meeting of the Waters

When we speak of ephemerality, we step into an infinite landscape — one where every moment is fleeting, every image is in transition, and everything that lives is ultimately consumed by time. My work is an exploration of this impermanence, capturing the transient beauty of the Irish landscape, where light, mist, and memory intertwine.



**Joseph
Laffan (UK)**

The Caress of the Sunset



Photography by

Bogdan U. (Romania)

THE CURATOR'S NOTES



I had the joy of curating a project that, through the valuable contribution of each artist, proved to be a success. I think that together - the gallery, the artists and myself - we created something beautiful here: a story of our own about the ephemeral, we materialized our vision of this concept and I think it turned out just wonderful.

This is the second exhibition project I have worked on with People & Paintings Gallery and I am very happy and grateful for this wonderful opportunity and for all the beautiful opportunities the gallery has given me so far. When I see artists respond so beautifully to an artistic proposal, to a challenge, submitting artworks through which they prove their mastery, creativity and intelligence, that is an incredible and incomparable feeling. Thank you very much to everyone and congratulations to each one of you!

The selection process was not easy because I had to choose between very good artworks and I could only choose half of them. But I assure all the artists who sent a work for this exhibition that it was seen and appreciated. Of those that were not included here, some will appear in the end-of-year exhibitions of the gallery. And if the selection was not exactly easy, neither was the awarding...

Cosmina Marcela Oltean

EXHIBITION RESULTS

The winners of the contest are:

Curator's Award — "Memories of My Childhood" by Chelsie (Mexico)

Gallery Award — "Black Gondolas" by Péter Szilágyi (Hungary)

Popular Vote Award — "Fire" by Lesya Shulga (Ukraine)

Honorable Mention - "Seventh Day" by Ramsko (Poland)

Honorable Mention - "Interval" by Douglas Allcock (United States)

Honorable Mention - "Land of Memory" by Joseph Laffan (United Kingdom)

People & Paintings Gallery

