

INTERVIEW BIZZARRE MAGAZINE
Q&A w/ Nicolas Tolmachev, July 2018

1. Who are you and where are you from?

My name is Nicolas Tolmachev, I'm a Ukrainian artist making watercolor works on paper. I've lived in Paris for a few years during which I studied at the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts. Now I live and work in Ukraine.

2. How does your homeland affect you as an artist?

Maybe that unintentionally Ukraine has influenced me since childhood as I grew up and spent most of my life here. Nevertheless I don't keep myself informed of the local art scene or the political life so these things don't affect me much. My inspiration has more intimate sources. But I must say that there was a change in my work back in 2013 because of the Crimea crisis and the Ukrainian revolution, I drew a lot of caricatures dealing with Russia.

3. How do you see the topic of sexuality now on days?

This topic seems perfectly normal and common to me. When I make a drawing on the subject, I'm not trying to draw attention. On the contrary I think that sexuality is the most natural thing, like eating and breathing.

4. What is the most difficult thing about being an artist?

The most difficult things are to make a living, because things are always so unstable, and not lacking inspiration.

5. If you had your own planet, how would it look like?

It would look a little like the planet from « The Little Prince » by Antoine de Saint-Exupery. I imagine a very green English garden with lots of flowers, beautiful weather all the time and swans swimming in a lake.

6. What would you change in the art world that we are living in now?

To tell the truth I quite like this art world, I don't see a major problem with it. I feel like everyone can express themselves in their own way, without any limits. There is no trendy style or genre that you have to fit into, each artist is free to do what he or she pleases.

7. How does your work affect your personality?

My art and my personality are closely linked of course but I don't feel like the work has a particular power over the person. I think that the artwork represents the artist at the very precise time it is being created.

8. What do you think is the purpose of human existing?

Maybe the purpose of existence is to ask yourself that kind of philosophical questions (laughs) ! I believe that life is more simple than we think. You just have to be happy, to love and not let the bad things get to you.

9. Many times I ask myself...(finish the phrase)

...why do I spend so much time on social medias ?

10. Give us an advice.

Spend less time online. You have to live and take the time to enjoy real life relationships with people.