

**АКТУАЛЬНІ ПИТАННЯ ОБРАЗОТВОРЧОГО ТА
ДЕКОРАТИВНО-ПРИКЛАДНОГО МИСТЕЦТВА**

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**GRAPHIC AND PAINTING CREATION SIGNET BY
THE MOLDOVAN VISUAL ARTIST ION SFECLĂ**

Abstract. The visual artist Ion Sfeclă (19.11.1941-27.05.2020) created several valuable works in various techniques of graphic art and easel painting. In parallel with his creative activity, he worked as a teacher at the Republican College of Fine (Visual) Arts “Alexandru Plămădeală” in Chisinau. Participating in various exhibitions, creative camps, international and national, the artist Ion Sfeclă manifested himself as a talented author of thematic compositions, landscapes, still-lives and portraits. His watercolor landscapes and etchings, as well as the sketches of illustrations created in the same technique are of the great expressive force. The National Museum of Art of Moldova preserves the series of etching compositions dedicated to the Mihai Eminescu subject, dating from 1983, which can be analyzed as sketches of illustrations and those dedicated to the old city (Chisinau), from 1991. In creation the artist tended to approach philosophically the subjects chosen through associations, metaphors and symbols. The visual artist Ion Sfeclă had an expressive, fresh

and at the same time rational artistic vision, managing to unite the content with the plastic form, composition and color. At the heart of his creative pursuits were the images and faces of people, the landscapes, the still lifes, the rhythm and decorativism, the simplicity and stylization inspired by the folk wisdom and the beauty of the immediate reality. The artist has taken an interesting path from socialist realism to abstract art, from the painting to graphics works keeping the expressive charm of emotions in his creation. Ion Sfeclă's creation denotes artistic refinement, the poetic sense of nature and colors, a free exploration of graphic and pictorial processes, in combination with original compositional ideas.

Key words: art, technique, graphic arts, painting, illustration.

Introduction. Ion Sfeclă was one of the most famous Moldovan artists whose creation still arouses much interest from the public and specialists in the field of visual arts. The visual artist Ion Sfeclă (19.11.1941 - 27.05.2020) created several works of artistic value in various techniques of graphic art and easel painting, he created sketches of book illustrations. In parallel with his creative activity, he worked as a teacher at the "Alexandru Plămădeală" College of Fine Arts in Chisinau. Many of his former students became well-known artists in various fields of visual arts like Iurie Braşoveanu etc.

Problem statement. Ion Sfeclă organized personal exhibitions and participated in numerous collective art exhibitions in the country and abroad. His works have been highly appreciated at the "Saloanele Moldovei" ("Saloons of Moldova") and other national and international exhibitions [3]. In 1997 Ion Sfeclă was awarded the prize and diploma of the Union of Visual Artists in Romania at the exhibition "Saloons of Moldova" for the triptych "Hunger from 1946-1947 in Bukovina and Bessarabia". It was not the first appreciation of

his artistic mastery, but only one of several appreciations of it [9, p. 5]. Participating in various creative camps, international and national, the artist Ion Sfeclă manifested himself as a talented author of thematic compositions (“Gathering the grape”, 1973, fig.1; “The autumn. Gathering pumpkins”, 1982, fig. 2), landscapes (“Old Venice”, 2002 etc.), still-lives (“Still-life with a crystal”, 1969, fig. 3; “Still-life with black glass”, 1978, fig. 4) and portraits (“The portrait of Glebus Sainciuc”, 1990 etc.).

Analysis of recent research and publications. Creative works, biography of Ion Sfeclă is almost unknown for public, art critics and artists, there are some researches only [7-9].

So, **the purpose of this article** is to analyze specific features of individual manner and main stages of creative work of Ion Sfeclă and actualize his work in art criticism.

Presentation of the main research material. Thus, the portrait of Glebus Sainciuc created in sanguin pastels was one of his greatest artistic successes. Of great expressive force are his watercolor landscapes and etchings, as well as the sketches of illustrations created in the same technique. The National Museum of Art of Moldova preserves the series of etchings dedicated to the Mihai Eminescu subjects, from 1983, and to the old city, from 1991. In his creation Ion Sfeclă tended to approach philosophically the chosen subjects through associations, metaphors and symbols.

Working in watercolors, Ion Sfeclă reached levels of strength and expressive freedom, casual, rarely encountered in this field. The dimensions of his graphic works are great and by the power of action on the spectators are competed with the works created on canvas or in the other monumental techniques and genres.



Fig. 1. Sfeciă I. "Gathering the grape". Paper, etching. 1973.



Fig. 4. Sfeciă I. "The autumn. Gathering pumpkins". Paper, watercolor, pastel. 1982



Fig. 3. Sfeclă I. . "Still-life with a crystal". Paper, watercolor. 1969.



Fig. 4. Sfeclă I. "Still-life with black glass". Paper, watercolor. 1978.

As the aesthetics values, the poetry and melodic sonority of the Ion Sfeclă works suggest different emotions and lyrical-dramatic connotations, revealing images of nostalgic, noble and elegant nuances. The artist painted landscapes and still-lives in oil and watercolors. He painted in Paris, Barcelona, Madrid, Rome – everywhere he traveled. The artist's creation was highly

appreciated by critics Tudor Braga, Tudor Stăvilă [7, p. 122-125; 8], Constantin Spinu, his colleagues and the admiring public. The artist's creation was analyzed in leaflets and exhibition catalogs, periodical press [2, p.12], internet resources [5] etc.

The visual artist Ion Sfeclă had a fresh and at the same time rational artistic vision, managing to unite the content with the plastic form. At the center of his interests and artistic pursuits were the faces of people and landscapes, the rhythm and decorativism, the simplicity and stylization inspired by the folk wisdom and the beauty of the immediate reality.

Ion Sfeclă was born on November 19, 1941, in the village of Boian, Noua Sulița, Hotin County, Romania (today the Chernivtsi region, Ukraine) and died on May 27, 2020 in Chisinau. He graduated from the Graphics" section of the Republican College of Fine Arts "Alexandru Plămădeală", Chisinau, and in 1968 – from the "Painting" section. In 1973 he graduated from the National Academy of Fine Arts "T. Zalcāln" in Riga, Latvia, Faculty of Graphics [1]. Since 1973 he has been working as a teacher at the "Alexandru Plămădeală" College of Fine Arts in Chisinau. In 1978 Ion Sfeclă became a member of the Union of Fine Artists of the Moldavian SSR, and in 2000 – a member of AIAP UNESCO. From 1974 until the last period of his life, he organized several personal exhibitions, participating in numerous representative exhibitions in the country and abroad. Ion Sfeclă participated in national and international exhibitions in the Republic of Moldova, Austria, France, Germany, Japan, Israel, Lithuania, Romania, Russia, Ukraine and other countries [6]. The artist's works are kept in public collections in the Republic of Moldova and Romania, but also in private collections in Argentina, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Moldova, Romania, USA [4].

The works signed by Ion Sfeclă denote artistic refinement, the poetic sense of nature and colors, a free exploration of graphic techniques, in combination with original

compositional ideas, approaching the decorative element and various plastic principles specific to the collage. Demanding his own creation and constant experiment in search of the plastically and originality, the artist managed to achieve great success in creation due to his aspirations for improvement and insistent work. His abstract and realistic works feature expressive and elegant elements. Thus, the thematic of the works reflect the artist's gradual transition from socialist realism to the attributes of modern and post-modern art. The suggestive power of his creation consists both in his professional training and in the fact that the artist, so modest in his relations with colleagues, managed to direct the creative energy to his multiple paintings. His works in watercolor create a relaxing and casual mood and are very fresh and expressive.

Working in watercolor, Ion Sfeclă reached levels of strength and expressiveness, freedom, casual, rarely encountered in this field. The poetry and the melodic sonority of the artist's works suggest the most different emotions and lyrical-dramatic connotations, revealing images of nostalgic, noble and elegant nuances through their aesthetics. Also, the artist painted in oil, made landscapes, still-lives in this technique, etc.

Conclusions. The visual artist Ion Sfeclă had an expressive, fresh and at the same time rational artistic vision, managing to unite the content with the plastic form, composition, succulent and lively color etc. At the heart of his creative pursuits were the images and faces of people, the landscapes and still-lives, the rhythm and decorativism, the simplicity and stylization inspired by the folk wisdom and the beauty of the immediate reality. The artist has taken an interesting path from socialist realism to abstract art, from the painting to graphics works keeping the expressive charm of emotions in his creation.

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ГРАФІЧНА ТА ЖИВОПИСНА ТВОРЧІСТЬ МОЛДОВСЬКОГО ХУДОЖНИКА ІОНА СФЕКЛИ

Анотація. Художник Іон Сфекла (19.11.1941-27.05.2020 рр.) створив чимало цінних робіт у різних техніках графіки та станкового живопису. Паралельно з творчою діяльністю працював викладачем у Республіканському коледжі образотворчих мистецтв «Alexandru Pământdeală» у Кишиневі. Беручи участь у різноманітних виставках, творчих таборах, міжнародних та всеукраїнських, художник Іон Сфекла проявив себе як талановитий автор тематичних композицій, пейзажів, натюрмортів та портретів. Великою виразною силою володіють його акварельні пейзажі й офорти, а також ескізи ілюстрацій, створені в тій самій техніці. У Національному художньому музеї Молдови зберігається серія офортних композицій, присвячених темі Міхая Емінеску, починаючи з 1983 р., які можна аналізувати як ескізи ілюстрацій, присвячених старому місту (Кишиневу), починаючи з 1991 р. У творчості митець прагнув філософськи підходити до обраних тем через асоціації, метафори та символи. Художник Іон Сфекла мав виразне, свіже і водночас раціональне мистецьке бачення, спромігся об'єднати зміст із пластичною формою, композицією та кольором. В основі

його творчих пошуків – образи й обличчя людей, пейзажі, натюрморти, ритм і декоративізм, простота й стилізація, нав'язані народною мудрістю й красою безпосередньої дійсності. Художник пройшов цікавий шлях від соцреалізму до абстрактного мистецтва, від живопису до графіки, зберігаючи у своїй творчості виразну чарівність емоцій. Творчість Іона Сфекли символізує художню вишуканість, поетичне відчуття природи та кольорів, уособлює дослідження графічних та живописних процесів у поєднанні з оригінальними композиційними ідеями.

Ключові слова: мистецтво, техніка, графіка, живопис, ілюстрація.

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