

CONNECTIONS SERIES: STANLEY LEWIS

ANNA IZMAYLOVA



FACING THE UNKNOWN

Image of the future

This artwork reminds me of the time when my family took the decision to move to Canada—a country on another continent with 6 hours of time difference, with another language, culture, and history. This year it's been 13 years since we arrived in Canada and about 19 years since my family made this decision. Since then, literally, I faced the unknown.

All my thoughts got intertwined with my expectations, dreams, and fears. This feeling: when one day you know where you are going and what you wish for, and the next day, following a conversation with someone with bad experience or too many concerns about immigration, you are not so confident anymore, and your dreams are shadowed by this person's experience. This was exactly the fear of the unknown. However, like the illuminated face in this picture, my image of the future was illuminated by the hope that everything will be good and by a faith in my own strength and knowledge.

No need to be afraid of the unknown, you just have to believe in yourself and take the first step forward. Only you have the power to transform the unknown into "known".

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EVOLUTION

This artwork reminds me of a philosophical phrase "In searching of meanings." I do not know what exactly Stanley Lewis (the artist) intends to show in this picture. But I understand this image as the evolution of human needs during one's lifetime. How sometimes we worry about trivial things, that we later come to see as unimportant as we advance in life. There are no wrong answers or actions in life, but it is very important to hear and know oneself and follow our self-evolution. The evolution of our soul. I like how in this picture the darkly colored face looking downward is transformed into the bright image of a face imbued with hope and faith, looking up in space.

For some reason it reminds me of "The Legend of Danko" by Maxim Gorkiy, a text I learned at school and one of my mom's favorite books. It is the story of a tribe driven out by enemies from its native fertile land. They wander in a dark and dangerous forest for a long time, in search of new land where to live, but the forest doesn't give them the path to come out. People begin to be desperate and scared; they die one by one without any hope to survive. Then one young man called Danko, seeing this happening, starts to ask himself: "What have I done for the people?!" He shouts it louder than thunder, then, following this realization, he steps forward, opens his chest and takes out his heart. He raises it above his head so that the heart would light the way for everyone. Danko walks ahead of his tribe, and his heart shining like a torch. The darkness recedes and his people finally find a way out of the dark forest...

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TOWARDS THE INFINITE

From Stanley Lewis' biography, I learned that one of his favorite quote was "From dust to dust." I like this phrase and I correlate it with this picture.

This reminds me the theory of the single whole. There is a hypothesis that all life on our planet is part of one whole. This means that if we humans are but one component of something bigger, we cannot compete, be better or worse, smarter or sillier than other beings. Yes, we are different, but we remain a part of the Universe. I like this idea, because if people believe they are all belong together, they easily choose love instead of hate, good instead of evil, beauty of creation instead of horrors of destruction. We cannot be "divided" in any sense or circumstance. We move all together in this universe and make one another better. I see in this print a lot of lights passing through the human body. This gives me the impression of people you meet, leaving an imprint in your life, as you in turn leave an imprint on someone else's life.

From dust to dust it is the infinite, through which we pass by at breakneck speed, like a spark. Our only power is to make our spark of life as bright as possible, and warmer for the people around and for all the Universe.
