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VLADIMIR KARTASHOV

A SECOND BEFORE THE MIRACLE

January 20 – February 17, 2026

DSC Gallery is pleased to present 'A Second Before the Miracle', a solo exhibition by Vladimir Kartashov, curated by Domenico de Chirico, on view from January 20 to February 17, 2026.

The exhibition is built around the phenomenon of the event, a fragile yet decisive moment when the habitual flow of everyday life is suddenly interrupted and something other enters ordinary reality. Each painting functions as a small intervention, a visual announcement of the Other, where familiar scenes develop a subtle crack through which another dimension becomes visible.

This concept resonates deeply with the spirit of Prague, a city of mystical modernism, where architecture, history, and artistic traditions merge the real with the unreal. Kartashov's works continue the legacy of Czech surrealism and Prague's alchemical imagination, transforming the gallery space into a site where reality briefly becomes transparent to mystery.

The central motif of the Annunciation is not treated as a religious subject, but as a symbolic model of rupture, the moment when unexpected meaning enters the familiar and alters its structure. Light, figures, digital signs, and mystical elements appear as signals of this shift. The viewer encounters a world that remains recognizable, yet subtly destabilized, inviting heightened perception and inner awakening.

Could you describe your journey toward art? When did you first realise that creating would become your life's direction?

I was born in Siberia, among snow and silence filled with ancient mysticism. On my mother's side, my family belongs to Indigenous peoples who preserved shamanic practices, the ability to read dreams, and to perceive the world as a field of signs. These traditions intertwined with Christian tradition, creating a unique spiritual atmosphere in my childhood.

From an early age, I was drawn to images - to paintings, amulets, and talismans made by my relatives. I drew endlessly: with a black marker on simple paper, copying the world around me, and later trying to understand the language of paint on my own. I would go into the taiga to paint studies, attempting to grasp painting without a school or teachers, guided only by an inner feeling.

What led you to choose Milan as the place to live and create?

I moved to Italy four years ago and spent a long time living near Pisa. Milan is a new realm of sensations for me - a new experience, a city of powerful energy and refined architecture. I realize that my art does not fully align with what many Milanese artists create, but this very divergence feels true to me. My manifesto is simple: art must remain individual and not dissolve into the mainstream.

“How would you characterize your painterly language in a single sentence? And which masters of the past or present serve as your most significant sources of inspiration?”

I see my role as an artist in a kind of archiving of the time in which I live. To capture the present does not mean to depict objects realistically; for me, it means to grasp the emotions and inner vibrations of our era. Today we exist simultaneously in two worlds - the offline culture and the online realm - and I feel that my paintings bring these realities together, intertwining images of actuality with the visual language of internet culture.

Delicate painting becomes a foundation on which I layer volumetric masks, emojis, and symbols - as if they were elements from a parallel dimension. Among contemporary artists, I feel close to Anselm Kiefer, Daniel Richter, and Neo Rauch; from the masters of the past, I am inspired by Botticelli and the artists of the Italian Renaissance.

And, of course, the primary source of inspiration remains life itself - life unfolding in two worlds at once.

Vladimir Kartashov (born 1997, Novosibirsk, Siberia) is a contemporary artist whose work responds powerfully to the challenges of the digital age. His paintings combine realism, surrealism, magical realism, symbolism, and existential inquiry, exploring the complexity of modern identity and emotional experience.

Kartashov believes that concepts are best expressed visually. His compositions balance precision and imagination, blending detailed realism with symbolic and surreal elements. Using a rich, vibrant palette and thick layers of paint, he creates tactile, almost sculptural surfaces that evoke intense emotional atmospheres.

Influenced by iconography, mythology, collective memory, and dream imagery, Kartashov's work navigates the boundary between the real and the imaginary. His paintings are rich in symbolism and metaphysical reflection, inviting viewers into worlds where everyday reality opens toward hidden meanings and deeper perception.

Kartashov's solo exhibition at The Church of San Clemente in San Clemente Island in Venice, Italy will be on view from May 6, 2026.

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