



REFLECTIONS ON THE TOPIC "TIME" ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE DESCRIPTION OF THE CREATIVE PAINTINGS BY T.V. FADEYEVA.

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ABOUT ARTICLE

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Abstract: In this article, the compiler reveals the ideas laid down in the author's paintings "Before and After" and the Chronometer cycle, inspired by the images of Indian, Buddhist and Sufi philosophy, scientific data and hypotheses on the topic of "Time". The artist's thoughts expressed, encoded in ancient symbols, the meaning of which partially erased or distorted by time. The artist's creative immersion in the subject is a deep and meaningful study of the subject, the result of which disclosed in this article.

INTRODUCTION

"Months followed months before us,
Wise men replaced by wise men before us.
These dead stones are under our feet
Before they were the pupils of charming eyes",
Omar Khayyam¹

In 2015, in the Istanbul Clock Museum, the author of the article was astonished by the extraordinary ultra-precise ticking beating in all sorts of ways, the smallest handmade mechanisms, the creation of which took an enormous amount of time and attention of the best master watchmakers.

Impressions from the sophisticated devices seen at that time coincided with personal thoughts about the transience of life, the concept of infinity and the significance of human being.

Then the idea came to create paintings on the theme "Time".

¹ **Omar Khayyam** - Persian philosopher, mathematician, astronomer and poet (1048 - 1131)



«Before and after», 2018 oil on canvas. 150x100

Before and after. In 2018, the painting "Before and After" was painted, in which the main characters of the plot are a chronicler named Before and a clairvoyant After. The twin brothers live in a house that looks like a grandfather clock. In the hands of the chronicler brother is a pen with which he writes past memories on the tape of life. The clairvoyant brother owns a crystal ball and he alone knows what lies ahead. There is a window in the attic, from which the author of the work observes, looking at the viewer through the ring of the key in search of a clue to the mystery of the rapidly flowing time. Due to the depth, mystery and non-volumetric coverage of the topic, you can return to it repeatedly, at each turn of its study, finding a new understanding of the nature of the subject. Plunging into cultural, historical, philosophical and scientific material, the idea came up to create a cycle of works under the general name "Chronometer".

Chronometer. Restless mortal time rushes, grinds into powder on its ancient stone millstones - dials the memory of people, deeds, events, distorts their perception passing through its vigilant sieve, separating gold from sand. Time in the form of Chronos² with an insatiable appetite absorbs its own creations.

According to the beliefs of the ancient Greeks, the first thing that was born from the endless Chaos³ was Time (Chronos), which gave birth to Fire, Air and Water.

A high-precision portable device – the clock “Chronometer” named after Chronos - (they are checked for reliability in astronomical observatories). This device developed for navigation in the open sea in the 16th and 17th centuries.

² **Chronos** - originally - the god of agriculture, later, in the Hellenistic period, identified with the god personifying time, Chronos (ancient Greek Χρόνος from χρόνος - time).

³ **Chaos** (ancient Greek χάος from χαίνω - I open up, yawn up) is a category of cosmogony and cosmology, the primary state of the Universe, a formless combination of matter and space (as opposed to order).

"Chronometer" is a cycle of artworks, which consists of 25 paintings. The dials depicted on them - planets - mandalas symbolize the infinity of cycles of time. In different cultures, the sacred concept of time interpreted in a variety of ways. The "Chronometer" series inspired by Indian, Buddhist and Sufi philosophy.

Time...

of birth and its anticipation, meeting, parting, growth, fall, rehabilitation, shamelessness, prayer, worship, struggle, growing up, rebirth, home, garden, balance, prayer, change, flight, inspiration...
 ...the eternal cycle of lifelong pilgrimage.



Fadeeva Tatiana, cycle "Chronometer", 2020
 450x450, oil on canvas, mixed technique.

Consider separately some of the compositions included in the cycle:



"Spiritual path", 90x90, oil on canvas

Spiritual path. The construction of the "Spiritual Path" composition is based on an octagon (octagram or cross-shooter) inscribed in a circle, which symbolizes the clock face. The octagon is a very ancient sign; it was the symbol of the goddess Ishtar⁴ among the Babylonians. According to popular

⁴ **Ishtar**, also *Eshtar*, *Ashtar* is the central female deity of Akkadian mythology: the goddess of fertility and carnal love, war and strife, an astral deity (the personification of the planet Venus).

beliefs, an okrogram-amulet has protected sailors from adversity along the way since ancient times. Often depicted as two squares brought together at an angle of 45 degrees relative to each other, which symbolizes the balance and orderliness of the material and spiritual world. The octahedron often used in Muslim paraphernalia. It is present in the ornaments of ancient palaces, madrasahs and mosques, on emblems and flags, used in Arabic scriptures, where it serves as a text separator (Rub al-hizb (one fourth of the hizb)).

In the composition "Spiritual Path" there is an insertion of color and texture, which differs from the rest of the dial field, occupying one-fourth of its part. It depicts a fragment of an Uzbek carved wooden door, which symbolizes the period spent in solitary prayers "behind closed doors". This time is, in a way, a test of the silent loneliness of a believer.

For example, Islam practices the tradition of Sufi⁵ seclusion in the chillakhon⁶. It contributes to spiritual enlightenment, purification and energy filling of believers.



"Time of rethinking", 90x90, oil on canvas.

Time for rethinking. On the canvas "Rethinking Time", a pair of arrows - segments inscribed in a circle, symbolizes the two phases of life. The first, located at the bottom of the canvas, made of natural clay, points down, personifying the period of craving for physical and material pleasures. The second arrow, filled with an ornament of oriental miniatures, in contrast, tends upwards. It symbolizes the period of maturity, when there is a need for prayers, spiritual growth and philosophical reflection.

⁵ **Sufism or tasavvuf** (arab. التصوف) is an ascetic-mystical direction in Islam, including both teaching and spiritual practices aimed at fighting a person with hidden spiritual vices and spiritual education of the individual; Muslim asceticism; the way of life of the followers of Sufism and their association; one of the main directions of classical Muslim philosophy. The followers of Sufism called *Sufis*.

⁶ **Chillyakhona or chillakhona** (from the Taj. "chilla" - a forty-day period ("chil" - forty) and "khona" - a room) - a room or cell for the solitude of a Muslim during fasting (ruza) for the purpose of fervent prayers and spiritual practices. Usually such cells, often in the form of underground dugouts, arose near the so-called places of power - the mazars of saints and revered people.



"Memory", 90x90, oil on canvas.

Memory. Our memory has features that contribute to the natural oblivion of information or experienced impressions, as a result of which, with age, bright fragments of youth tend to be gradually erased from memories.

In the composition "Memory", a fragment of an ornament borrowed from the traditional Uzbek suzani, the symbolism of which described in the works of many scientists, stands out as an intense spot. "Suzane is the main type of wedding embroidery, its dimensions varied from 1.5 x 2 m and above. The word itself comes from the Tajik suzan - a needle, i.e. suzani literally translates as created by a needle⁷." The dial is divided into 4 parts, two of which are filled with an embroidery ornament - one is filled with color, created in a painting technique; the second is just a monochrome graphic pencil sketch. The idea of the picture is that memory, like suzani, tends to fade over time, losing bright colors and details.



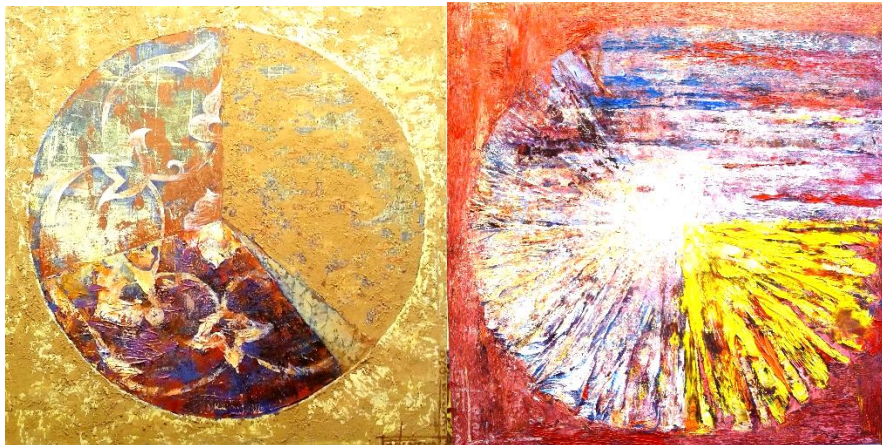
"Prayer Time", 90x90, oil on canvas

Prayer time. The hands of the clock in the form of a sliding wooden stand for books - lavkh (or lauh), with an open book lying on it, in the work "Time of Prayer", symbolize the period of spiritual quest. Lavh, (in Arabic rakhle) is a stand for the Koran. Appeared at about the same time as the holy book and was used not only for ease of reading, but also for a more careful attitude to the truly expensive book of Muslims.

⁷ Gul E.F. "Heavenly gardens and earthly gardens: Uzbekistan embroidery: the hidden meaning of sacred texts", Moscow "Mardjani foundation", 2013. - 24 p.

In the history of its existence, lavh changed. In oriental antique miniatures can be seen more ancient progenitors of modern coasters. Interesting a lavkh of the 15th century, which is located in Samarkand, in the courtyard of the Bibi Khanym mosque. It created from marble, at the behest of Mirzo Ulugbek. In Uzbekistan, skilled artisans carve the traditional lavkh from a single piece of wood without a single nail.

The book depicted on the canvas in an open form is a symbol of the macrocosm, world religions, and the universe of life, studies, spirit of wisdom, truth and being.



"Circulation", 90x90, c., clay, oil. "Existence", 90x90, oil on canvas.

Cycle. Existence. The works "Circulation" and "Existence" united by the idea of the change of life and non-existence on the example of the metamorphosis of a dandelion and ceramics under the influence of time. In the work "Circulation", pottery created from clay by potters breaks over time and breaks up into tiny pieces, turning back into clay, from which other generations of artisans will again make a ceramic vessel. In the painting "Existence" the main motive is a dandelion. From its seed grows a beautiful yellow flower, similar to the sun, which then puts on a white dress and, finally, crumbling into many seeds, lives an infinite number of lives.



"Carpet Moon", 90x90, oil on canvas

Carpet Moon. The idea of the Carpet Moon composition based on a carpet that occupies the right side of the circumference of the dial. The left side empty, only the threads stretched, waiting for the weaver. The composition contains the idea that we ourselves are the authors of our lives and actions, if they are beautiful, then the pattern of the carpet is gorgeous. Erroneous actions can spoil the harmony of the carpet ornament. Our deeds forever imprinted in the pattern of the carpet of our lives.



"Beginning", 90x90, oil on canvas

Beginning. Tick-tock, time has gone. The first minutes of a child's life filled with light, so in the composition "Beginning" yellow is the main color. According to the traditions left from nomadic ancestors, in Central Asia the baby tied to the cradle beshik⁸, in which he will spend the first months of his life. The figured, painted beam of the beshik, located above the head of the lying baby, is what he will see for the first months of life, so in the composition it carries the main semantic load and symbolizes the hour hand.



"The Mystery of the Fruit", 90x90, oil on canvas.

The Mystery of the Fruit. The composition "The Mystery of the Fruit" tells about a small bone, from which, if it gets into favorable conditions, a huge tree will grow.

It should be noted that the tree is a very ancient symbol. In various religions, philosophies, mythologies, it links three worlds: heaven, earth and the underworld. It is one of the most common motifs in the applied art of Uzbekistan - it considered an important object of culture and mentioned in Turkic mythology. For example, among the common motifs of traditional suzani embroidery, often read a floral ornament depicting the Garden of Eden, through which expressed a wish for prosperity.

"A tree is the most common symbol on Azerbaijani carpets. One of its variations "grows" on Ganja, Tabriz and Karabakh carpets. This is the Vag-vag tree, on the branches of which instead of birds, were depicted the heads of people and animals. Myths say that the fruits of this tree talk among themselves,

⁸ **Besik, besyk, beshik** (Kazakh besik; Kyrgyz beshik; Uzbek beshik) is a type of cradle common in Central Asia.

and look like heads, and the leaves grow daily in order to fall in the evening. Over time, the image simplified and became part of the ornament of traditional carpets.

Kazakh culture honors the Baiterek tree, which has a developed root system, symbolizing the strength, loyalty, reliability and strength of the people. Historically and geographically, there are few trees in the steppe, the habitat of the Kazakhs, so a single tree is of particular value.

The tree as an important symbol appears in the Abrahamic⁹ religions, standing in the middle of the Garden of Eden "tree of life", access to which was limited after the fall of Adam and Eve.

Chinese myths speak of a phoenix¹⁰ and a dragon¹¹ sitting on the tree of life.

In three thousand years, the only fruit ripens once - a peach, which can give immortality to those who eat it.

Avesta¹² describes the Tree of Life as a sacred tree of enormous size, carrying the seeds of all life on earth. Two fish, the creations of Ahura Mazda¹³, observing for its safety, protect it from the frog, the creation of the evil Ahriman¹⁴.

The songs of the Slavic peoples of the pre-Christian period sing about the tripartite world tree, which is the center of the world and creates it. Beavers live at the roots of the "three-headed tree", bees live in the trunk, and a falcon lives in the crown. In the views of the ancient Slavs, the World Tree is located on the island of Buyan¹⁵ on Alatyr-stone, which is also the center of the universe.

Buddhism considers the Bodhi tree (star anise) sacred, since according to legend, Gautama meditated under this tree on the full moon at the moment of enlightenment, and he became the Buddha¹⁶ under it.

Officially, star anise is the national tree of India. In Hinduism¹⁷, it symbolizes the world tree and human consciousness, carries the power of fertility and abundance.

⁹ **The Abrahamic religions** are the common name for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

¹⁰ **Chinese phoenix** (Chinese fenghuang) - in Chinese mythology, a miracle bird, as opposed to the Chinese dragon, embodying the feminine (yin), is a symbol of the south. Her appearance to people is a great sign that can testify to the power of the emperor or portend a significant event.

¹¹ **The Chinese dragon** is a symbol of the good beginning of yang in Chinese culture (unlike the European dragon) and the Chinese nation as a whole, strongly associated with the element of water.

¹² **Avesta** is a collection of sacred books of Zoroastrianism, the very first of the world religions of revelations, whose followers lived in Central Asia, Iran, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, and a number of countries of the Near and Middle East.

¹³ **Ahura Mazda** "God the Wise" - the Avestan name of the deity, whom the prophet Zoroaster - the founder of Zoroastrianism - proclaimed the only god.

¹⁴ **Angra Mainyu** - Ahriman (translated from other Persian "evil spirit") - the personification of evil in Mazdaism and later Zoroastrianism; the god of darkness and the personification of all evil, the primary source of evil, the opponent of Ahura Mazda.

¹⁵ **Buyan** is a fabulous popular island-city in Russian folklore - fairy tales and spells. He became especially widely known thanks to the fairy tale by A. S. Pushkin "The Tale of Tsar Saltan". Buyan Island endowed with miraculous power; magical things are stored on it that help fairy-tale heroes fight evil.

¹⁶ **Buddha** (from Sanskrit - "awakened", "enlightened") is the highest "state of spiritual perfection".

¹⁷ **Hinduism** is one of the Indian religions, which often described as a collection of religious traditions and schools of thought that originated in the Indian subcontinent and share common features.

Shamanism around the world uses the Tree as a symbol of Shamanic Cosmology¹⁸. The roots of the tree - "Lower world". This is our subconscious, something that affects our lives, but we cannot see it, however there is power and energy there. The crown of a tree symbolizes upper world visible to the eye.

The olive tree is the symbol of Greece. The sacred tree of the ancient Greeks, considered a symbol of peace, power and victory, symbolizes peace and prosperity, as well as resurrection and hope¹⁹. These are just some of the meanings of the Tree symbol.



"Perpetual Motion", 90x90, oil on canvas.

Perpetual motion. In the composition "Perpetual Motion", a symbol directly related to the concept of time inscribed in the circumference of the dial - a snake biting its own tail - the ouroboros²⁰, which is one of the oldest known to humankind, the date of occurrence, the historical and territorial origin of which is currently not possible to establish.

This symbol can be interpreted in different ways. More often, it presented as an image of eternity and infinity; it contains the idea of the cyclical nature of life: the alternation of creation and destruction, life and death. In addition, the ouroboros personifies, like the swastika²¹, the movement of the cosmos. It is believed that the ouroboros originated and was a popular motif in Ancient Egypt, then migrated to Ancient Greece, where it carried the meaning of infinity. However, information about its origin is not accurate, since close analogues of the snake also found in the ancient cultures of Scandinavia, India and China. For example, there is an opinion according to which a monad in ancient Chinese natural philosophy directly connected with this symbol, expressing the concept of "yin and yang". In the Vedic religion and Hinduism, Shesha (or Ananta-shesha) appears as one of the forms of the god in the form of a snake biting its own tail, representing its connection with the symbol of ouroboros.

For many centuries, the symbol retained interest, it was used by alchemists in the Middle Ages as a symbol of transformation into a philosopher's stone, necessary for the transformation of metals into gold.

¹⁸ **Cosmology** is the nature of the Universe. One of the shamanic techniques is the transition from one cosmic region to another, from Earth to heaven or from Earth to the underworld.

¹⁹ *Fadeeva T.V.* "Composition of theatrical scenery" study guide, "Tashkent LESSON PRESS", 2022. P. 59-66

²⁰ **Ouroboros** (ancient Greek οὐροβόρος from οὐρά "tail" + βόρα "food, meal") is a snake or lizard curled up in a ring, biting its own tail.

²¹ **Swastika** (Skt. स्वस्तिक from स्वस्ति, swasti - greeting, good luck, prosperity, from सु-, su - "good, weal" and अस्ति, asti - "to exist, to be").



"Time at home", 90x90, oil on canvas, acrylic, appliqué

Time at home. Arrows on the last quarter of life's journey. After long life travels, active deeds, there is need for peace and relaxation. As a rule, this is a period of tea drinking at a cozy table in a circle of close people. The dial of the clock has become the clay wall of an old house. "Ever since man learned to build houses and cities, clay has undoubtedly been one of the most widely used building materials in the world. There is no such inhabited continent and even countries that would not have the tradition of building from mud, and more than a third of humanity still lives in houses built of clay."²² The supports of the traditional Uzbek roof are visible in the wall and dark holes gape between them. They made in the applique technique from an old Uzbek hat - skullcap²³ (duppi²⁴). "The skullcap is an integral part of the Uzbek national costume and at the same time a real work of national art"²⁵. It, like the domes of the mosque, means the arch of heaven under which a person is born, lives and dies. In the East, it is commonly believed that the crown of the head is a link with the Universe, and the skullcap acts as a talisman, protecting the most vulnerable place of a person from evil spirits and an unkind eye, and attracts health and well-being.

It would seem that the definition of time seems to be an easy task: it is seconds, hours, as well as the end of a day, month, year, the beginning of another ... However, there are many conflicting scientific theories of its characteristic and origin, since the ultimate nature of time is still a mystery. Therefore, this topic can never be exhausted. In this article, the author stayed in more detail on some of the creative paintings from the Chronometer cycle, giving them a brief explanation. New plots of development and comprehension of life will continue to expand and supplement the cycle.

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²² Hugo Ubin, Hubert Guillot "Clay Construction", LLC "TONG", UNESCO Office in Uzbekistan, 25p.

²³ The root of the word "tyubeteika" lies in the Turkic word "tyube" (or "tobe"), which means "top".

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²⁵ A.S. Morozova, N.A. Avedova, S.M. Makhkamova "Folk Art of Uzbekistan", 1979, Publishing house of literature and art named after Gafur Gulyam, 1979, Tashkent, 45 p.