



Козак Дронар (Cossack Drone Operator)

Date

2024

Primary Maker

Roman Selivachov

Medium

Wooden base from ammunition box, egg tempera, gold leaf

Description

Cossack Drone Operator forms a pair, paralleling Lady of the Drones. Selivachov's composition invokes the Old

Testament prophet Elijah, known for his fiery ascent to heaven. “Conversely, this Cossack brings fire down from the sky, finding his kindred spirit in Archangel Michael who fought with Satan and defeated him,” says the artist. The inscription was taken from a Ukrainian folk song, The Red Horizon. Selivachov altered the last line which originally read: “I walk out into the dark grove to chatter with the flowers.” The sunset glows red and blue on the horizon, Somewhere a light flickers, and a voice begins to sing, As sleep descends upon the earth on the wings of night, I walk out into the dark grove to fight the enemy. Selivachov, who is a professional icon painter and artist, began painting ammunition boxes in 2014 at the start of Russia’s military campaign. Friends and volunteers continue to bring back boxes from the front and, in turn, Selivachov provides them with funds to be used for urgent military needs. “It is a sort of soldier-artist symbiosis,” he says.

Dimensions

18 1/2 × 11 × 1 1/2 in. (46.9901 × 27.9401 × 3.81 cm)