

"BASICS"

by Ieva Pētersone

My solution is to go against the current. To pick less, but with higher quality. To choose to love and care. To choose to fix things instead of buying always new ones. To create less waste, more jobs, learn/not forget old skills. Simply to find time to stop and mend holes in socks, yours and those of your beloved ones.

"BASICS" symbolically includes both the problem of pollution caused by overproduction and its solution.

Technically, the work will be made of used socks with holes in them. I plan to collect them from my friends and acquaintances, and to mend their holes with contrasting color threads afterwards. The socks will be flat-lined and stitched together, thus forming a one-piece fabric, which in the final I plan to fix on a frame like a painting. The size of the artwork depends on the amount of socks obtained, in any case my goal is to create an artwork in size of 1.5x2 meters as minimum.

Why socks?

Socks are widely used in everyday life, at least in our latitudes. Everyone knows them, uses them, has thrown them out, and at least the elderly have definitely patched them. Therefore, in this case, they become my tool for speaking in a much broader sense which includes our everyday attitudes, habits, and choices. A sock can be a boot (the one from real precocious leather, worth to save money to buy it and pay the shoemaker to fix it), it can be a cellphone that you choose to keep despite the new model already came out. And the contrasting patches can be something beautiful, something that you carry with pride like the choice, inspire the comfort and habit, to use many alternatives to plastic that are being widely created and improved today.

About the technical solution:

I decided to challenge myself by offering technically experimental work for the competition, although my usual medium is oil painting and despite the fact that several of my works, especially the "Allegoritmica" series <http://www.ievapetersone.com/works-opere/2017/> speak the same language of "If Things Grow Wrong".

During the pandemic, I had the opportunity to spend a lot of time working on my upcoming exhibition. In the course of the work, I expanded my technique by combining oil painting with hand-sewn inserts in different fabrics. It was a quite time-consuming choice, as opposed to today's increasingly instant methods, and perhaps without forced lock down, I wouldn't have dared to go into such a slow project. In the end next to quality result, this satisfying and almost meditative process has made my work more emotionally and energetically meaningful.

The idea to realize "Basics" by sewing it from pieces of recyclable material, investing my time, full presence and energy in the process, not only inspires me, but also emphasizes the basic meaning of the project.

