

MIA VUČIĆ "KILOBYTE OF THE SOUL"

*Every work of art is the child of its age and, in many cases, the mother of our emotions.*¹
/Wassily Kandinsky/

Kilobyte of the Soul is the latest graphic cycle of Mia Vučić from nine works created during 2019 and 2020 in the technique of archival print on canvas. *The Kilobyte of Soul* graphics are a continuation of the already well-established theme of questioning, introspection and the development of a recognizable visual language in the artist's work opus. *Kilobyte of the Soul* is a reflection and a child of our time, the mother of our emotions especially as it thematizes the everyday symbols of our lives. In accordance with our present time, the cycle was presented for the first time *online* in the virtual world, which is also the basic driver of finding a kilobyte of the soul.

The artist must have something to say and the goal of every artist is to adapt the form to its inner meaning.² Mia Vučić and her graphic works have something to say from the very beginning. As a postgraduate student of graphics and printmaking, she first exhibited her graphic works *Possibilities* at the 4th Splitgraphic Biennale in 2009. These works, like the following ones from 2011, awarded with the Young Artists Award at the 5th Splitgraphic, are characterized by the silhouette of a human female figure in shades of gray. These graphic sheets are derived in the aquatint technique in combination with digital printing, which will prevail in the future, as the initial figuration will be replaced by abstraction and textual computer messages by further multiplication of the human figure. However, there is already a thread of introspection and ideas that are running through her work today, combined with the syntax of computer icons that first appeared in 2013. Mia Vučić exhibits in the official selections of Splitgraphic in 2015 and 2017 at group juried exhibitions, and the artist's works were regularly chosen to present Splitgraphic abroad as part of the cross-section of the contemporary Croatian graphic scene, and through these exhibitions the stages of visual language development could be followed as well as artist's techniques. They are characterized by an extremely subtle relationship to the form, composition and message that the artist conveys and explores in her works. Precisely because of the facts mentioned above, *the Kilobyte of the Soul* cycle is the most mature cycle of Mia's work on the topic of technology and spirituality so far, where a distinct sophistication of compositions has been achieved. The placement and combination of fragments of computer interfaces with inscriptions from these programs, as well as with elements reminiscent of a drawing, suggest, however, the existence of human handwriting within computer characters. The geometry of the multiplied digital order is set against the chaos of being of the human spirit.

The artist successfully superimposes chaotically patterned yet well-controlled black strokes that express emotion versus digital, in exploring and searching for spiritualities transported into the computer world. Through the signs of technical interfaces, she searches for the spiritual, for her own soul, creating and combining these primary elements of the screen into powerful abstract compositions on white backgrounds. The inscriptions we encounter within the graphic rasters *Activate now ... Check now ... Welcome to the person's application .. System information To be filled by ... Memory ...* are constructed messages that lead to the deconstruction of one's own created virtual personality and identity to the discovery of the true soul and vanishing spirituality behind our screens. Mia expresses her artistic and inner human need by arranging these abstract elements of the painting to reach the goal with the work *My Soul Loves Me* which symbolically and realistically closes the cycle. The choice of objects, colors, signs and compositions on her computer graphics carefully leads the artist to express her inner need and meaning. In the cycle *Kilobyte of the soul*, Mia Vučić achieves the harmony of form, which is a reflection of the vibration in her human soul.

Marina Petit

¹ *Wassily Kandinsky, Concerning the Spiritual in Art, The Floating Press, Auckland, 2008.*

² *Wassily Kandinsky, Concerning the Spiritual in Art, The Floating Press, Auckland, 2008.*

