

Rembrandt van Rijn

15 juli 1606



a Kind

# Tomislav Paunković

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Two of

We are pleased to introduce to you artist TOMislav PAUNKović. Although this artist is still unknown in the Netherlands he has already exhibited in many countries, namely Germany, Switzerland, Italy and the former (East) European countries.

The Old Dutch Masters served as the artist's example, therefore TOMislav PAUNKović is delighted to exhibit his work for the first time in the home country of Rembrandt van Rijn, his main example.

TOMislav PAUNKović was born on July 15, 1952 in Knjaževac, Serbia. From a young age he nurtured his keen interest and passion in painting. Although his father, a lawyer urged him to study for a real profession, TOMislav completed his first oil paintings by the early age of 16 years. 2 years later his first exhibition in Ljubljana – Dom Ina - followed. He began his educational career in 1973 with the commencement of his studies at the Academy of Art in Belgrade followed by the study Porcelain and Ceramic Design. During the first years after his studies, he also worked as Restorer of Icons and Frescoes in various Serbian churches.

TOMislav's fascination for the Old Dutch Masters made him travel to Germany, France, Italy and of course The Netherlands with only 1 goal in mind: to study their paintings and techniques thoroughly. In several museums the employees had to urge him to step back from the paintings, afraid that he might cause damage to the master pieces.

It takes a great deal of effort and time to create an oil painting according to the Old Dutch techniques. Oil painting is the process of painting with pigments bound in oil. Although oil paints can be purchased pre-mixed, TOMislav makes his own by mixing dry color pigments with oil. The paintings are created layer by layer, applying the paint with fine brushstrokes to the canvas. The different layers allow for different drying times, making it a time-consuming process.

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To TOMislav every detail is of great importance. At first glance many people may think: “Beautiful still life”, but as soon as they take a closer look and observe the painting more thoroughly they are astonished by the many details. Aspects such as nature, realistic colors, aesthetics and harmony are important characteristics in his work. This is exactly what he found in Jungholz, Austria, when he arrived there in 1980. Tomislav fell in love with the village and since then he alternately works and lives in Serbia and Austria.

A lot has been written about TOMislav’s past and present work:

## Artist of Light

TOMislav’s earlier work shows similarities to the paintings of the Old Dutch Masters: Everyday objects are placed on a black background, and are illuminated by a strong beam of light. However, the composition is still remarkably simple.

The transitoriness of the object and the signs of wear are almost touchable. By playing with the colors TOMislav creates special light effects, resulting in an extraordinary illumination of every object, drawing the observer’s full attention. This last aspects also shows in his present work. Nowadays TOMislav has moved from painting traditional Still Lifes to painting lighter objects and themes in a more contemporary surrounding. The compositions are still very rich in contrast, but the background is lighter.

By chance or destiny? Rembrandt and TOMislav are both born on July 15<sup>th</sup>. This is not the only similarity: As a contemporary artist TOMislav knows how to match the style of the Old Dutch Master in his own unique way. By playing with different light effects, TOMislav captures reality in his oil paintings.

The exhibition will take place from June 15 -July 15 and will show the development of TOMislav’s work from the past to present: from his earlier work - in the spirit of Rembrandt- to his current more contemporary paintings.

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