

Artist Statement

Kamila J Gruss

Les Demoiselles d'Avignon

"...it allows itself to be heard like a wedding melody coming from the blue atmosphere, quiet yet lively, uniquely enchanting, lulling the heart and soul, lazy, in a faint, and like a source of living blood, rhythmically uneven in pulses, bleeding like a fresh wound: — a melodic sound from the Polish soil, rocked by pain and pleasure." 'The Wedding' by Stanisław Wyspiański.



Les Demoiselles d'Avignon 2021

The motive of the chochol dance illustrated above is meant to visualize the malaise and lethargy of the Polish nation. I wanted to refer to the powerlessness and helplessness in which we have been stuck since 2015. It was then that our nation sold itself for a few pieces of silver. Half-conscious, we are still dancing, starting to bleed. The chochol dance symbolizes not only passivity but also a chance for rebirth. After all, the chochol covered plants only for the winter, and in spring, trees and shrubs came back to life. The symbolism of this figure also has a positive resonance and signifies hope that we will wake up and regain independence. (The visual form references Henri Matisse's work – 'The Dance'.)

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