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This painting depicts a bronze statue of David made by renaissance sculptor and painter Andrea del Verrocchio. Verrocchio was teaching young artists and had a workshop, one of his apprentices was Leonardo Da Vinci who went to study under Verrocchio in 1467, when he was fifteen. It is sometimes claimed that Verrocchio modeled statue after teenager Leonardo. Whether it's truth or not, the painting David is intended as a portrait of Leonardo.

The idea to paint the portrait of Leonardo came after seeing the painting Saint John the Baptist, which is considered Leonardo's last masterpiece. It depicts half-length and upward-pointing Saint John the Baptist, who looks youthful, beautiful and slightly androgynous which doesn't synchronize with artistic conventions in portraying the Baptist. A somewhat ambiguous sensuality visible in the work made me to want to show Leonardo in a way he depicted Saint John, the way we don't see him depicting himself in self portraits - fragile, sensual, sexy way.

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Paveikslas David yra nutapytas pagal bronzos skulptūrą Davidas, kurią sukūrė renesanso skulptorius ir tapytojas Andrea del Verocchio. 1467 metais į Verocchio studiją-dirbtuvę mokytis atvyko penkiolikmetis Leonardo da Vinči. Sakoma, kad Verocchio Davido skulptūros modeliu pasirinko būtent paauglį Leonardo. Paveikslas David yra tarsi mano įsivaizduojamas Leonardo da Vinči portretas.

Idėja nutapyti šį portretą kilo pamačius paveikslą "Šv. Jonas Krikštytojas", laikomą paskutiniu užbaigtu Leonardo kūrinium. Paveiksle vaizduojamas Šv. Jonas, vienoje rankoje laikantis kryžių, o su kita pirštu rodantis į dangų. Paveikslo subjektas pavaizduotas gražus, švelnus ir kiek androgeniškas - tai charakteristikos, kurios nebūdingos meninėms konvencijoms būdingoms vaizduojant Krikštytoją. Nevienaprasmiškas geidulingumas matomas tame kūrinyje man sukėlė norą pavaizduoti patį Leonardo tokiu būdu, kuriuo jis pavaizdavo Šv. Joną, tokiu būdu, kuriuo neesame pratę jo matyti - trapiu, jausmingu, seksualiu.

Rūtenė Merkliopaitė

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Education :

Raseiniai Šaltinis Secondary School, 1997 - 2009
Academy of Arts, Vilnius, Painting BA, 2009 - 2013
Edinburgh College of Arts, Scotland, 2012

Exhibitions :

2011 Žalia sąmonė, Meno parkas, Kaunas, Lithuania
2011 Young painters to Justinas Vienožinskis, Rokiškis Region Museum, Rokiškis, Lithuania
2012 Scenarijus Baseinui, Lazdynų baseinas, Vilnius, Lithuania
2012 Story II – we hear same, DE KIJKDOOS, Amsterdam, Netherlands
2012 Contemporary past: tracking a postcard, Nida Art Colony, Nida, Lithuania
2012 Painting in Lithuania, CAC, Vilnius, Lithuania
2013 24 Spaces, Malmö Konsthall, Sweden
2013 Young Painter Prize, CAC, Vilnius, Lithuania
2013 Vienna Art fair, Vienna, Austria
2014 Solo show in AMB library, Vilnius, Lithuania
2014 Studio-Shaped Show, Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris, France
2014 Dexter Sinister. Work in Progress, CAC, Vilnius, Lithuania
2014 The Serving Library, Tate Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom
2015 Tap Water, Russian drama theater, Vilnius, Lithuania
2015 Vienna Contemporary, Vienna, Austria

Residencies:

2012 Contemporary Past: Tracking a Postcard, Nida Art Colony, Nida, Lithuania

2013 *Joy & Mirror* creative residency, Museo Fondazione MACC, Calasetta, Sardinia, Italy

2014 Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris, France

Collections :

Peter Bonnén, Denmark
Michal Manek, Czech Republic
Mindaugas Raila, Lithuania