

VLADAN NIKOLIĆ

MESSIAH

SHORT STORIES









ebook

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Vladan Nikolić Messiah

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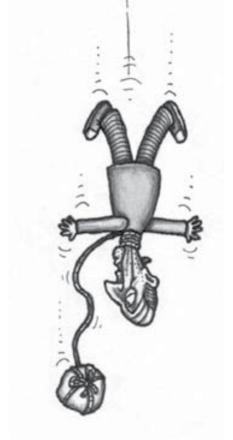
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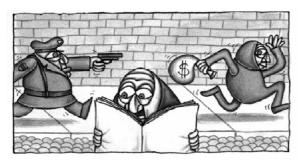






In Absurdity's Wide Embrace

Il of us, almost every day, meet with Rashomon effects in the stories that we hear that relate to one and the same event. The truth is, perhaps, only one, but only in our version of reality. Someone else has their own truth just as the 'carrier' of its own, independent version of reality. On a planet with seven billion versions of reality and truth, a consensus on a single truth seems impossible. Of course, it is an open question whether such an agreement, even if it were to be achieved, would be even remotely meaningful and what purpose would it serve and how would we use it.



What's not written in the newspapers – either hasn't happened or there is no reality other than the one in the newspaper

Fleeing from individual perceptions of reality, by rising above the visual and ordinary and trying to reach realities of other individuals, artists resort to various techniques and views that are also, paradoxically, their own reality even when they are using generally accepted patterns, distinctive cultural and civilisation terms and situations. The unique textures of telling – that is how a true artist makes things close and understandable in the eyes and conscience of others, either his contemporaries or distant descendants.

Vladan Nikolić is just one of the artists who are ready and, right now, very successfully, skilfully and subtly plays with the general locations of our / everyone's life and world-views. He refuses to consider the one-dimensional plan-







Someone always watches those who stand out from the crowd (1)

es of the individual / closely related group, abstractly dealt he brings more universal readability. Of course, Vladan Nikolić does not run away from localism but he also does not insist on it, aware of its strengths and weaknesses. In reviewing and 'practicing' certain civilisation's characteristic profiles, the author used literary templates called folk art so the works selected each stand alone as their own stories. Underlying all these 'exercises' are also, 'exercises' for processing and supplementing known settings; a deviation from this principle could be the folk tale about animals and their mute language where the final version is certainly 'distillate' of several earlier versions and additions to the initial narrative.



Someone always watches those who stand out from the crowd (2)

Setting a (mental) stage of his 'cases' Nikolić is taking out (for a walk) his favourites - caricature and absurdity, which go hand-in-hand all quoting each other. The caricature style drawing is the first thing noticed and immediately moves away from the 'dry realism' that helps to define the characters and their interrelationships which, conse-

quently, leads each narrative to the final and fatal absurdity that will bring down all the great truths on the towers of which people planned to build serious lives that have a serious purpose. A sobering dose of the absurd and subversive questions about the price of victory, membership and apostasy in all kinds of systems that always beat you on the head, of the (un)healthy food for the body and our empty soul ... The persistent lapse from daily reality in his condensed-refined-abstracted condition leads to elegant vignettes ('Plop!', 'Poof!') and the masterful 'Wanted' until, finally, the world champion of menacing and crazy absurd Daniil Kharms has found a new face in the form of Nikolić's art for a new generation.



An angry duel on chickens

In all historical and modern state systems / regimes a Messiah, like all those who go in the opposite direction to the brute majority, is undesirable because he asks questions that the authorities consider indisputably settled (in their favour). That's why jails (and cemeteries) are full of those who dared to speak differently than desired and prescribed by demonstrating and defending their natural rights and freedoms. Those who read these comics are fighting for freedom and the sharpness of their own consciousness against a faceless, followers' numbness.

Ilija Bakić, writer and comics critic





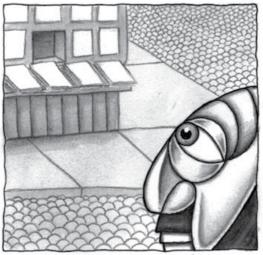


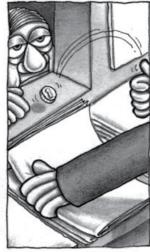
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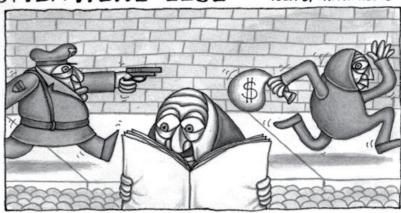


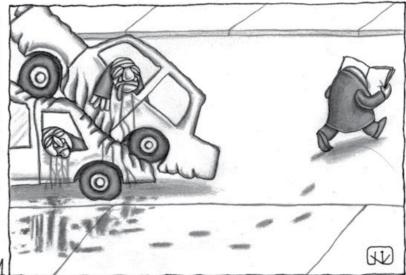


LIFE IS SOMEWHERE ELSE

VLADAN NIKOLIĆ IDEA BY: A. PAVKOVIĆ

















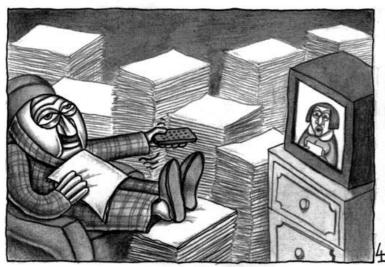








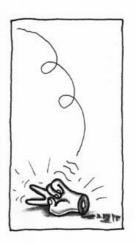










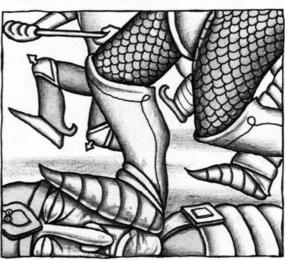


VICTORY

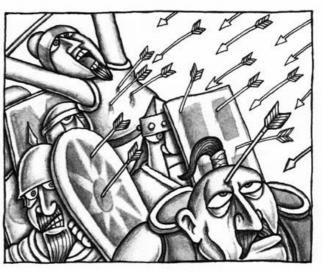
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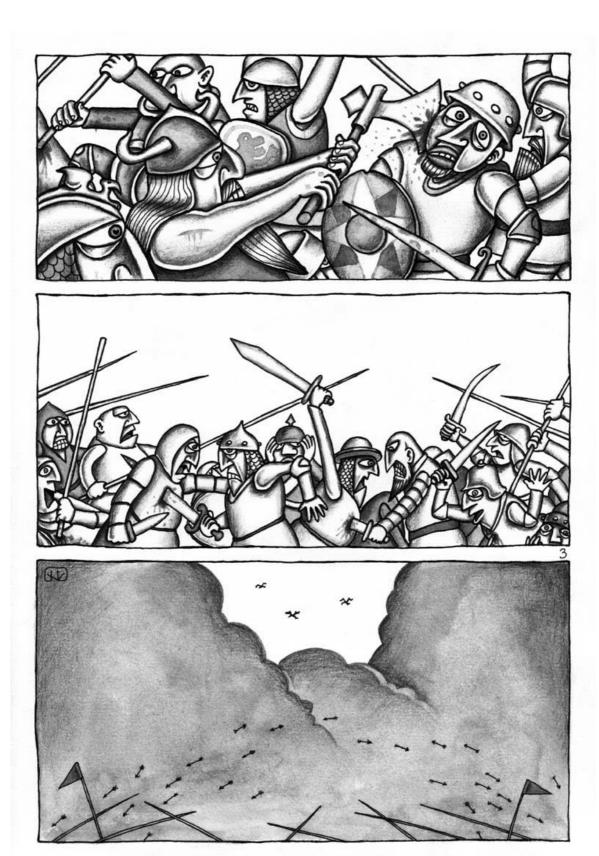


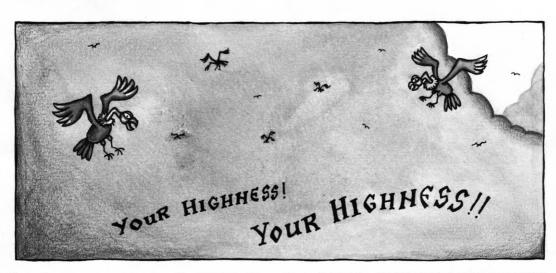
























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