THE TESTAMENT OF KAZIMIR MALEVICH

A. N. Vystavkin [1]
Kotel'nikov Institute of Radioengineering and Electronics, RAS

Kazimir Severinovich Malevich had commented on his epoch as follow:

"The time now is special, may be there was never such time, time of analyses and results of all systems, existed in former times, and new signs will be brought to our line of age demarcation. We will recognize in them imperfections, which have guided to the separation and discord, and perhaps we will select only the discord from them with the view of the unity system building" [2].

The most outstanding sign on the way *"to our line of demarcation"* undoubtedly is "The black square" (Fig. 1). It reflects the state of mind of the artist who has experienced together with most people before 1915 the revolution of 1905 – 1907, the assassination of P. A. Stolypin in 1911 in Kiev, the beginning of first world war in 1914 – 1915 and discomfitures concomitant these developments, as well as had divined developments coming thereafter. It is appropriate to cite the utterance of N. A. Ionina as the confirmation of this [3]: "There are artists – spectators and narrators. They are looking at the life from some distance and judging about it as if from the outside. While there are masters who are taking any plot as an inalienable part of own biography and visualizing themselves as direct participants of image subject even if this is possible through intermediary of dreamy assumption or phantasmagoria". This is said concerning "The black square".

---

[1] vyst@hitech.cplire.ru

[2] Kazimir Malevich, "On new systems in the art", 1919, July 15, Nemchinovka (in Russian), http://kazimirmalevich.ru/bsp217

[3] N. A. Ionina, "Malevich K. The black square", Hundred great paintings (in Russian), Publ. house "Veche", 2002, http://www.nearyou.ru/100kartin/100karrt_87.html
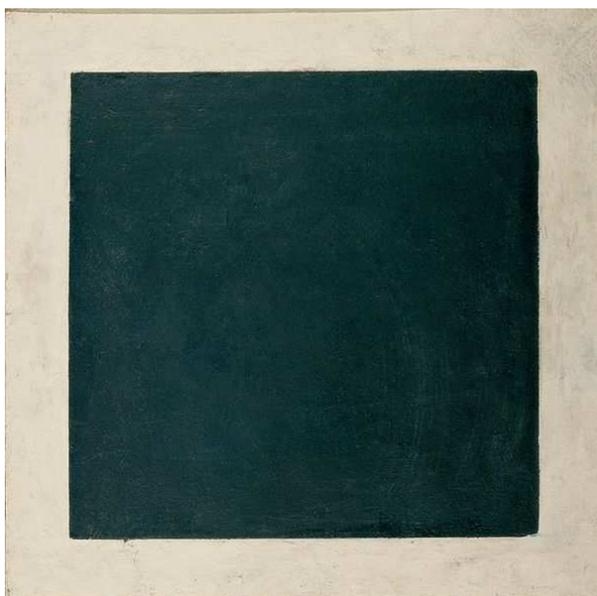
Fig. 1. Kazimir Malevich, The black square, 1915, canvas, oil, 79.5×79.5 cm^2, the State Tretyakov gallery, Moscow, http://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Черный_квадрат

The artist did not live till the line of age demarcation. By this reason we ought to consider his statement concerning the unity system building as his testament. This is validity to believe that we have reached the line of age demarcation, which he told about, at least we have approached it. In the light of this one may propose modestly a sign (different ones are possible) corresponding to mentioned above line of demarcation (Fig. 2) attempting to fulfill the testament of Kazimir Severinovich.
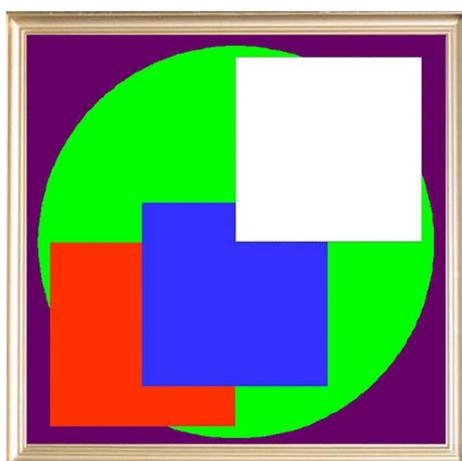

Fig. 2. The computer image of painting-poster "Russia, forward!" in A4 format. The visible size of canvas ~ 50×50 cm^2, the frame size ~ 56×56 cm^2.

Prehistory and description of the painting-poster "Russia, forward!"

One of my professional spheres are production and presentation of radio images using computer graphics. The example of such radio image is shown at Fig. 3.
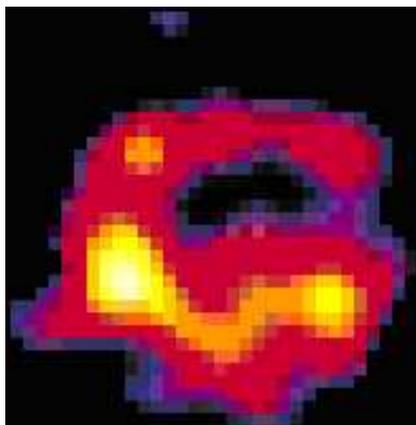
Fig. 3. The planetary disc photographed with radio telescope.

This is the radio image of planetary disc at early formation stage nearest to the star ε Eridani photographed with J. C. Maxwell radio telescope at radio waves of 850 μm wavelength. The radio image is performed with small squares-pixels which colors represent brightness of corresponding parts of photographed object. This technique has name "image presentation in pseudocolors". It helps to discern image details by eye. This technique is applicable to any other images, not only to radio images. Working with radio images I have learned and applied modern computer technologies for image presentation by force of the applying them onto paper, canvas or other surfaces by means of special paints. In the same time being concerned with painting art I have ventured to make on my own some painting using modern computer technologies. Not being an artist I have chosen for the sake of simplicity laconic graphics based on simple geometric figures. Inter pares I have thought about the painting "The black square" by Kazimir Malevich (Fig. 1) performed in appreciably advanced laconic graphics. Taking into account the meaning of painting (see above) I have made a decision to move on the way of comparison with "The black square", or rather on the way of expression the

situation in today's Russia. Kazimir Malevich himself has helped me when declared for necessity of "… *the unity system building*", as this is cited in the beginning of paper. After the Presidential Message of Dmitry Medvedev to the Russian Federal Assembly of November 12, 2009 the concrete idea how to realize my concept has taken shape. This is the painting-poster (Fig. 2) formed by five elemental geometric figures of different color: the painting in the style of laconic graphics on the meaning and composition, and the poster on modern computer production technology.

The idea, meaning, i. e. "… *the unity system building*", and composition of the painting-poster in more details is the following:

● The purple square in the background represents our shortcomings, drawbacks and other distressing conditions, as domestic, so external. Domestic ones: corruption, retarded technologies, terrorism; external ones: Georgia, middle Asia, some others. In other words, everything what were mentioned in the Presidential Message. Usually purple color is used by artists to reflect dark, night. Black color, color of the hopelessness, would be too dismal and not appropriate for today's situation.

● Green circle is the symbol of spring, flowering which are crediting with transition to new quality proposed by President of Russia. Many artists portray spring and flowering with the color of awaking flora.

● Three squares performed in colors of the Russian flag point out that green circle, credited with transition to new quality, has relation to Russia. The arrangement of squares by analogy with symbolism of road traffic signs does signify the movement forward and upwards. Square centers are arranged along the exponential curve what signifies the intention of Russian President and most Russian people to move forward with acceleration to modernization, extended civilization and to advanced positions everywhere and finally to the worthy status on the Earth keeping in mind the most modern and good meaning of these words.

● In whole the appeal "Russia, forward!" of President Medvedev is represented. The gold yellow frame accentuates the significance of the appeal.

The ways of composition realization is modern computer technology production of posters. At first the painting-poster is drawing by means of computer at the computer monitor and after that is loading to computer memory, usually to its portable memory. From the memory the painting-poster is laying onto especially prepared canvas using art plotter and high quality long-lived paints. These paints have to live up to hundred years as developers of canvas and paints do suppose. Not more than fifteen years have elapsed from the creation of this technology. So it is difficult to say now how long the painting-poster will be good really. It is desirable to have its life cycle as long as possible. In any case it would be possible to reproduce the painting-poster using saved computer files but not to restore it. So the picture of painting-poster is applying on the canvas by means of professional plotter and software precisely realizing paint colors given at the monitor by author. The picture is covered additionally with colorless lacquer preventing it of undesirable influence of light, moisture and other factors. It is embedded in the framing selected by size and color for the idea, meaning and composition of the painting-poster. The production of my painting-poster was fulfilled by "The Art-service AG (art salons)" [4] using my initial computer file and under my control as the author for resulting colors.

On the application possibility of the described above modern computer technology in the painting

I would like to add the following not connected directly with my painting-poster. The described above method of painting-posters production was developed and is applying for creation high-class copies of famous paintings. A painting is copying with high resolution digital photo camera or scanner, downloading to computer memory and then

---

[4] http://www.art-ag.ru/index.php

reproducing with the described above method. In my opinion it may find application in the paintings, i. e. *for creation of original painting pictures.* As a possible example it can be given the fine art branch named "pointillism" (from French pointiller – to make paint of points). Its followers are painting a picture by individual strokes of regular points using paintbrushes and oil paints. They use not more than ten pure paints not mixing them at a palette. The painted picture example is given at Fig. 4[5]. The picture contains up to several millions color strokes of pure paints. The size of canvas is 2×3 m^2. It is necessary to look at the picture from some distance at which an eye integrates colors. This integration is equivalent for the mixing up paints at a palette. The author of the painting Georges Seurat has worked on this painting more than half a year especially on the nature. This was laborious prolonged job.

An idea has appeared in my mind – to suggest new pointillists, when they will be turned up, to take advantage of said above computer technology and to dab color points from "electronic palette" by the use of touch-sensitive screen and mini-pointer (instead of brush) and to backtrace at the computer monitor what is coming out. An "electronic loupe" can be used for convenience. When the picture will be filled with points at the computer memory it can be laid on canvas or other surface in the way described above. Other options are available. In the final analysis this will be the beginning of active application of computer technologies like in many other spheres.

---

[5] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georges_Seurat

Fig. 4. Georges Seurat, The Sunday Afternoon on the Island of the Grande Jatte, 1884-1886, the Art Institute of Chicago.