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HOT ENAMEL IN THE WORK OF OLEKSANDRA BARBALAT

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Oleksandra Barbalat is an artist-jeweler, whose work is endowed with a wide variety of interesting images, multifaceted artistic-constructive and technical-technological techniques of jewelry and enameling, which reflects the philosophy of her life positions and views, creative experiments with color expression, a deep sense of material, thorough knowledge and traditions of form-making in the specified area, as a result of which exclusive works of a high artistic level appear.

It is known that the traditions of hot enamel go back to the times of ancient Egypt, Byzantium, Kyivan Rus and thereby identify enameling as an ancient cultural and artistic heritage of the Ukrainian people in the world context. It is natural and logical that the current revival and transformation of the traditions of enameling and the introduction of innovations into the form-making processes of modern jewelry serve as an eloquent means of reproducing the artistic image and are relevant for modern artistic practices, where the work of O. Barbalat is distinguished by formal-plastic experiments and searches aimed at disclosure ideas of the work with the help of the «living» energy of color and the properties of hot enamel, where in the joint interaction of these factors, creative concepts are born, endowed with the specificity of the texture of the material, the warmth of the fire and the special energy of the author. Boldly experimenting with various properties of the enamel material, the artist gradually develops and forms her own individual manner of performing enamel compositions, which is abundantly endowed with a variety of technical techniques inherent only in her authorial manner. The artistic and figurative language of mystkin sounds like a kind of chamber «miniature» painting, where not only color plays an extremely important role, but also the texture of the material, which organically conveys and strengthens the mood, energy, and conceptual load of the works. Having perfectly mastered the arsenal of hot enameling technology, O. Barbalat produces innovative technical techniques that appear in the course of systematic creative and technical searches, which in each individual case enhances the sonority of the artistic image and is a key technological element in one sense or another.