

## Kamilė Česnavičiūtė

This is a composition of information, experiences and stories, I have gathered throughout my young life. All the culture, books, movies, music, lectures, art, facts, people, conversations, events, background, fortunes and misfortunes that have come within my reach. They form a specific point of view. And as I continue looking into all of my interests I broaden my insight and involvement in society.

Society is at fault towards individuals. I preach anti-power and anti-overpowering others. So my interests lie in how society is built upon faulty structures and their fruits that need to be dismantled and reformed into a better way of living for everyone. Most of the times the system is wrong and not the individual, yet the individual lets it happen by being unaware or enabling.

Take care of your well being and others. It will be so much nicer to get along and live together. Stand tall against disappointing conditions, do not be afraid. No one is better or worse than you. Fear validates the concept of power, you do not have to be a part of that.

A disorder in your eyes - a train-of-thought in my mind. Some scattered topics, ideas with a certain point of view, supported by some great, bright minds. All you need to do is open your mind and do not dismiss it.

...

Ignorance is treatable, if you allow it. Too many people ignore things that influence their life. They think it is not their job to speak out, react on a situation, change, respond differently from one another, or do anything. Most of the people tend to say that it will not change anything if they will react with a notion that is different from whatever the structure is. It seems to me like people are afraid of their own doing. Like they are stuck in this web, they cannot break out of, because it is *sticky*. Well the mama of the web will consume you in that case. But why think of it as a web, that is so foreign and you cannot do anything about it. That is absolutely dumb. We make our beds ourselves and now we need to sleep in them? No, stand up and fucking react. A web is just a stupid allegory. In real life you are not stuck alone. That is the point, that is why everybody has to stop saying, that they cannot change anything by themselves. Anything can be changed, people just need to stand up and say it. Why is society so fucking oppressed by itself? Individual needs are the measures that society is formed by. So why are individuals having such a struggle? There are too many people that are treated unfairly and think that is the right way.

An American linguist, historian, philosopher, cognitive scientist and political activist Noam Chomsky wrote some good books. One of them is *On Anarchism*, in which he gives historically supported arguments on the obvious subject. He is explaining how language has evolved and so did the meaning of the word 'liberation'. The word has been adapted to the capitalistic system we have now and understood as something different from its original meaning. The word 'anarchy' is being understood and viewed as 'chaos', where the original intent of this word means democratic organizing from below. Both of these words essentially mean the same thing. Words in the same

language can be interpreted in different ways, accordingly to personal background and timing. Words that describe freedom have changed over time alongside the system to support the provided 'free market' world that puts belief and trust in someone else's created hierarchy. A hierarchy most feel like they have to follow if they want *provided comfort*, which becomes support of the unfair capitalist system. I guess that is why people are confused, but I am also not a linguist so I am sure I do not understand many concepts. The book is not very easy to read, there is a lot of factual mentions with philosophical outcomes, but from what I did take from the reading I was surely provided a broader perspective on the subject. This kind of literature can educate people about not buying in to the mainstream wave of belief.

•••

History is there so we may learn from the wrongs of the past and, so, improve our present. It is a collection of facts that should help understand where we made mistakes, it is not only meant for nostalgia. But nowadays the popular notion, indoctrinated by sick capitalism, is to think that how much better we are off now, and the history is the reason why we should stick to the course that we are on now. *Unstable structure of capitalism is really pushing it*. This is a time of a different kind of exploitation. There is a distinctive difference in power between people, how is that even a thing?! No one should have any power over anyone. That is a basic human right - to be free. Anyone who defiles that right is an enigma (a contradictory worthless waste of space, and I should not even say this, but the fact that I do already reflects the situation we are in). Everything is wrong here.

•••

This is only the beginning of everything. All of this is only the tip of the iceberg of knowing. There is so much more to learn still and so many answers to come up with. These are conclusions made by reading, talking, listening and observing. Not for a very long time, but the initial beliefs were always there. There is a huge grey area, that still needs to be researched for me. I may be wrong, but I also may be right. I believe in having a change of opinion as new information surfaces, while still retaining a fixed moral compass. Trying to understand all of these difficult topics is a lifelong task, a mission. I am only at the very beginning of it all. Wanting change, seeing others needing change, finding a way to be loud, not only for myself, but also to encourage others.

...

Oh sweet, sweet sound - music - loud, noisy, slightly aggressive, but yet helpful to release anger. Live music to relate in *spirit*, in action. A safe place to engage in friendly

physical reactions - to mosh pit - a place where everyone knows what is going to happen and accepts to participate or step back a bit. It can be light, strong, punchy, intense; whatever you make of it. It is a mutual understanding amongst everyone involved in the space. What a great, blissful unity.

...

I cannot be the only person that thinks most of our society is built on an unstable wrong structure. I do not want to be overpowered by someone thinking they are better than me or deserve to say more. Hell no. I do not care if you are a cashier, my grandma, a friend, a teacher, a police officer or the damn president. I will treat you with the same notion of equality, that does not make *you* or *me* more powerful. Because at the end of the day, we are the same pieces of flesh on one planet in an endless universe. Of course, I will have a different state of affection as in I love my grandma and my friend, and feel nothing for a president or a cashier, but only the basic love and care of human life. And all the other affections in between - for whoever. But maybe it is just me and I do not like other people telling me what to do, nor do I think I have the right to do so. There should always be a fair consensus between people, if one is suggesting one should do or not do (I do not mean our sick capitalism that is in the workings now).

•••

They say there is no other way, this is the only way it works, all the laws, systems and such is the only way. They say that inequality of people's living conditions is all fair, that some people do not try hard enough, so they do not deserve to live instead of just survive. What a bunch of bullshit, it does not work, I do not believe our society 'works'. They say in a *nation* you need such structures as the (federal) government, police force, military, prison, judges, bosses, managers and many more. Well, when you really think about it - no. Having basic human rights (freedom) and having things as police force is just a plane contradiction, that is the most illogical combination. It is lead to believe that most of the western world has freedom and democratic affairs, yet most people cannot even fully trust their politicians because of corruption or bribery, loyalties and similar happenings. This smells like a misconception of the true term of democracy. Everyone has to give the same respect to others as they would like to have. Some things are just basic knowledge, like I do not want to feel pain, therefore I will not punch you, or I do not wish to lose this object, therefore I would not steal an object from someone else also. Because I can understand how that should feel. So basic - sympathy, compassion - yet so complicated. Our whole society's fundamentals are wired wrong. Graeber wrote something about that the best democratic process needs to constantly reinvent itself according to its' particular situation and backgrounds of all the people involved. That is not what is happening to us now.

Some contradictory democracy, that includes government institutions, happens everywhere. One example out of many could be the "Occupy Wall Street", a peaceful assembly or a speak-out, that started in 2011 at Zuccotti Park, New York, until it was forced to leave that area. Anthropologist and activist David Graeber set an introduction about one of these OWS speak-outs in one of his books The Democracy Project. He mentioned the 2012 assembly on the steps of New York's Federal Hall, where legally they were allowed to gather and speak out. The people, that took part in this, had a chance to talk out loud, about the system of banks, money, capitalism, 99% vs. 1%. Not long after that, an armed SWAT team showed up and were asked by the activists, why are they at the peaceable assembly, they simply said "It's just a precaution". Probably some of the SWAT people felt uncomfortable to be there at a civilized meeting of concerned persons, but they were following orders of the government that wanted to stop the OWS. How is it normal that the people that are supposed to take care of your well being within the system are the ones that send armed women and men to arrest you for speaking your mind, wanting for fair change. After some time they started to reorganize how people should stand and in time they began arresting people, and take them in with no good reason, simply making one up. Graeber decided to say some words in that assembly; "That SWAT team over there tells you everything you really need to know. Our government has become little more than a system of institutionalized bribery where you can get hauled off to jail just for saying so." (from The Democracy *Project*). That does not sound like a very free or democratic place. Unfortunately those kind of acts and even worse ones happen all the time around the globe. It is only proof of how many things are wrong around us.

...

To obey, to comply, to overpower, to place higher, to not care, to exclude for being different - a waste of space and time.

...

The yellow man will grab you by the legs of the chair you sit on. It might seem comfortable to sit and relax, but do not forget to look behind your back. It can snatch your fragile tiny body and use it as it pleases. Maybe even take you as a pet, because it can, it is bigger, more powerful, brighter. Yellow man will ask for help to the point of taking advantage, so you might start supporting it, but do not forget yourself. It will use you as it wants to. If you give in, you will be the one who gets swallowed. It may feel like it understands you and your needs, but in actuality, it feeds on your weakness. It does not care, even if it acts as though it can relate. It will always deal with it's own needs first.

You become the yellow man enabler when you look away and surrender to it's fairytales.

•••

For some unknown reason people think this is the best we can do, with that kind of thinking we will not grow and dismantle such fearful thoughts. Unfortunately some people act upon these immoral measures, that end up needing authority of some sort. And this is not the individuals fault, but the fault of a society, that has groomed it to be so. This society created a perverted capitalism that treats the majority of persons unfairly and makes more damage rather than it gives freedom. Yet the parsons make the body of the society, that make us damaged. It is an everlasting loop, it seems. This dumb circle needs to break for a community to truly thrive. If we already know the history and what immoral actions were taken, by one group or another, why are we not able to comprehend that some changes should be induced towards our individual behavior? A simple notion of sympathy should already be an important foundation. By this point we have the internet, so all of this information is very reachable, for most. An American Marxian economist, founder and contributor of *Democracy At Work*, also a professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst Richard D. Wolff explains the damages of capitalism on talks, lectures, books and so on. I listened to a collection of lectures called Advanced & Applied Marxian Economics on his YouTube channel, that led me to understand better on how capitalism, as a structure, works and what it influences in our society. There he gives a simple example of chair production and how surplus works, how everything gets distributed. This example comes up a lot so a beginner would have a consistent flow of understanding. In his lectures he also addresses human behavior and capitalism effects, how it splits people by income and power. Wolff goes into detail on many topics surrounding the main subject. The lectures are worth listening, just to understand how it all works. I would listen to it again. This kind of knowledge should empower people to take action. As I noticed now, more people reconsider their thoughts on the matter.

•••

Why are we giving our basic human rights to some made up authorities out of few, that dominate the general population? We are just giving them a way to overpower us and they make sure, throughout media and what not, that we do not understand or grasp it. Immoral affiliations like that act upon rules that only serve the fat cats, that are also holding them on top of the food chain - in power. Yet another circle of surplus. The whole concept of having authority is hypocritical, so is mankind aware and ignoring it or is it trickery at play? Chomsky mentioned in his book *On Anarchism* that (federal) government and its' organizations do not have moral justification. It is because they work by a set of rules that are provided by the flawed system of capitalism that does not

care about individual cases or things that fall outside of the box. It abides the hierarchy and not a lone person. The made-up structure benefits the power and therefore cannot justify their actions morally. It can be difficult to understand and apply this, so I believe later on I will be able to explain this better myself. In this sense, I completely agree with him explaining that authority structures have no moral justification. Sadly some people feel the need to justify such junctions by means that are truly illogical. I think they are simply tricked.

...

In this day and age, the only function of dominant authority, that is actually very important, is to regulate the biggest, most sinister and damaging power - thirsty companies. They run and thrive on capitalism, that serves only the few. Chomsky gave compelling arguments on why 'the capitalist' should be the first to go and only after that the concept of authority can slowly be dissolved. Because without the capitalist, there should be no need for such regulations and structures. Grasping this line of actions is important to make changes that would actually work. Governments are able to put rules to some extent, but who are we kidding, they also feed from the same bowl in order to exist. So if you really fiddle your mind, most of us are just the bottom feeders, under the power and control of big, successful, opportunistic, profit-driven companies. They keep the government under their foot, because of some percent of the surplus division. This surplus also results to very good and needed things, as social benefits, welfare and help to some extent. On the contrary, this should not even be a situation, where that is needed. As Wolff, himself, talked about the need for most of those comes from a disadvantage that capitalism creates for most people. It is some weird contradictory paradox at its finest.

...

Some happenings are more transparent than others, so it is easier to find like-minded people or at least not conservatives. All kinds of arts will help to recognize that, so maybe it can also become an easier tool to use for representing such ideas. For me it is easy to spot in music, just because you directly listen to it and also connect with the people around you. Getting into a conversation about such political-social issues is not that hard, therefore broadening the reach of people is easy. It is important to connect, so we could be louder together and share our ideas, experiences, knowledge. Finding people that are also not afraid to risk hoping for change.

Getting into, for a lack of a better word, a subculture that stands up for people and invites everyone gives hope. In some cases it may seem to simply be a violent group of individuals, but it is most likely never the case, simply because most of their beliefs are not of violent nature. Emotions become easily involved and those emotions, a lot of the

time, might come from an angry place. Well this situation is not for everyone, but it should not be underestimated as something not important or not serious.

•••

Societies are corrupt by all kinds of misinformation, composed out of ignorance and fear. We are more informed now, so it is time to delete such a paradox. It gives a way for the mind to be lenient towards, honestly, dumb and fearful thought process. Any religious organizations - the church - is told to be a place where people can find peace and hope outside their work or household, well that is another error. Let us remember some history, when religion was the main authority power (the capitalist), that governed only because of people's lack of knowledge and induced fear. Of course, at some point it changed and that power was just exchanged to another construct, now called capitalism and its' pawns (government). Wolff also explains very well about the exchange of power within history. Now religion does not even have a real function, it is an outdated, conservative train of thought. Yet still some people insist to have such a bizarre fairytale as a big part of their life, they say it is good morals - no it is not. People of religion need it so they would not do anything immoral, while the rest of us do not need anyone telling us what is immoral in the first place. It is a very sad fact about our society, that basic human rights, that easily transform into morals, do not simply occur in everyone's mind, and they need some inflicted foreign fear to obey.

This, so-called, *pure* concept of religion is supposed to bring hope and all the good in the world, while it is one of the most, dispute and violence, towards one another, provoking construct. It involves so many people, it draws lines between communities, groups, individuals to a point, when it becomes destructive and hazardous. Why would any human want to invest their thoughts, emotions and time into something that preaches the differences between people on a grander scale, that brings actual harm. It is tragic how such a thing as religion becomes a legitimate argument or reason for so many people, who have a louder voice in our society. Basing arguments on any religion, is the same as basing a new kind of education on Hogwarts school of wizardry - it is a fairytale, not a valid fact. Some just try to fill the emptiness/missing part in them with some false hope and information, with religion. Maybe it is the tradition that people miss in their life.

•••

It is difficult, really, just not possible, to say what is wrong and what is right, and everyone has a choice, a right to believe in certain values. There is something that helps to think it through, on a very hopeful notion. A person will never want to experience any intentional harm, physical or mental. Every individual is different in many ways as in appearance, intelligence, interests, culture, and so on. One would wish

to keep this freedom, there are many people and they all wish the same - to keep their free choice in their own life. No one can take that freedom away and everyone should comprehend this, because everyone is in the same boat. Therefore, wrong and right, on the most basic level, is actually pretty clear, whatever way you want to look at it. It is wrong to obtain someone else's freedom, because all live in the same world. There are many situations that can vary and become more complicated, but to deal with that is possible, if decency is involved, it can be solved. It might look like a conundrum, but it does not have to be. Sometimes it is just a case of Occam's razor.

...

The whole concept of power has overtaken some people and those managed to convince most of the people that hierarchy is a normal function between individuals. They blew fear into peoples' minds, so they would do their bidding, and create their own smaller hierarchies. Who is to say that someone's free doing is more or less worth, or worse - obligatory doing. Why is there such a big difference between power, opportunity and more, that some are forced to only survive and others are granted the opportunity to actually live. The big bad - the power - has no remorse for anything that falls under their prestige, image or reach (in hierarchy).

One of the most fucked up institutions, that gives ultimate power to overpower another - the military. That is, by far, the dumbest thing that government funds exponentially. This is a topic too difficult, too deep, to resolve by scratching the surface, but some things could just be simpler, by this point. Such a thing like military formed ages ago, throughout history, and that became natural. Knowing that people had less knowledge about everything, all kinds of mistakes were made, they led us to now, where we are aware of many new things and possible outcomes, but yet we can still make money out of it, so why stop? What happened in the past, has taught us now, we can be better in the present.

This type of destructive power should not exist, should not be given to people in this power thirsty and very capable age. The people on top and some fat cats have no remorse for anything, their decisions may create conflict and destruction, especially when the army is involved. And we have perfect modern, contemporary examples like very complicated Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a terrible hoax inflicted on the people - Vietnam war, invasion of Iraq, a masked annexation of Crimea, manipulated crisis in Venezuela and such. All of these unjustifiable deaths, oppression, misery and terror, for possessions, to make money, proving a point or indoctrinate fear to keep a status. The military is just a tool to get what you want without any morals, while hiding behind the unjustifiable law and even religion. Unfortunately, at those times of crisis, most were not aware and got compelled by fear. But how many times of crisis do we need to get, to be able to comprehend that such an organization is a tool to get something, that is

beneficial only for the fat cats and top cream. Everyone just becomes a pawn in some sick game in which nothing is gained but grief.

The military is the most basic abuse of human rights, anti constitutional (if you please), immoral function. Training individuals to become a mindless herd, not to mention the intense hierarchy at play. Giving them lethal weapons, pointing into a bundle of people (same herd just other end of the court) - the enemy - granting them overall justification to kill, overpower and destroy. This is what *they* call - protection. But if we decipher the other end of the court, we get the same situation and over there *they* call it also - protection. In this circle it can also be called an *attack*, which is the same exact situation, only maybe reasoning changes.

Official groups, like armies, are meant for war, destruction, overpowering and not for protection. There can still be some crazy people that attack organizations, buildings, groups and such, that is where there is a need to use similar resources. But, fingers crossed, with time, and a lot of effort and improvement, the need to do evil acts against people will decrease into - no more of that. So there would not be a need of such institutions in general.

...

Having idealistic ideas should not be laughed at and put down, it should be encouraged. Even when there is no visible ways to come towards it, for the moment, that usually is only a matter of time, however long it takes. Such ideals should be a part of the education given to society and not disregarded, just because many have settled in somewhat of a comfortable box. This structure allows you to take an opportunistic risk for personal success within a system, and judges the idealists for victimizing themselves into not taking the same risk, but the idealistic risk taking would be to get out of this system and build an ideal way for everyone. That is a risk worth taking.

•••

Getting angry can be so easy unfortunately. People do not take you seriously if you involve such an intense emotion as anger. It may seem as if you do not think rationally about a subject. So there, I confess on being an angry person from time to time, but I am most certainly rational with my thoughts. After a burst of an angry rant it is important to come down to reality, consider your surroundings and take a look at the arguments, to apologize and talk civilized. I usually get angry at a situation or a subject and not at a person so much, therefore the conversation can continue to develop. It is indispensable to listen and understand each side of the story, so the reaction and the arguments would speak for themselves. I have to admit, that being angry helps to speak out and seek for change, but this anger, partially, comes from all these reasons that create the

problem, that needs to be changed. The problems do not only represent mine, they tell many peoples' stories and hardships.

...

It raises an eyebrow, when big important voices contradicts themselves, while debating an argument in a topic of interest. Such an occasion struck, while reading what Mario Vargas Llosa wrote about contemporary art in Notes On The Death Of Culture. The book has a lot of critique on current happenings in many topics, most of it is backed up by history and facts, but some of it is just a nostalgic eulogy with extreme judgment for now. It seems that he judges contemporary times for evolving and even searching for change, when his generations was the one that drove us to this point. Llosa was arguing that nowadays reflection of society in the art world has a shape of insolence, boastfulness, empty gestures and mafias in comparison to the artistic world before. Seemingly in modern art the risks that were taken by artists had a bigger revolutionary relevance, it was more important. No denying, the modern time art works were revolutionary to us now, and there is great respect and fondness for those, they laid the foundation. He mentions Marcel Duchamp genius urinal work as an eye opener in the art world at the time and that is very accurate. But at the same time he compares it to Damien Hirst shark work (probably money driven), as a good trickery, rather than an contemporary piece of art. Coming back to the notion that Llosa is contradictive, he is simply being old-fashioned by not accepting that maybe the trickery of Hirst is the concept itself, and that is what makes it a contemporary art work. It is not better or worse, it is just different. The train of thought is always in progress to change within time, there has to be space to accept the fact, that a different kind of concept is a part of a revolutionary change within art in a time. It seems that personal taste is overpowering the statement's legitimacy, and makes his perspective sound old-fashioned. Reading Notes On The Death Of Culture has a strong sense of devaluing the generations after his. As if, some specific opportunities are the same and that is just not true. Although there is a lot of factual information that really helps to understand how society has formed alongside with culture, only some conclusions do it justice. There is a very liberal point of view and way of thinking in the book.

••••

Using medium of art as a tool, to represent the relevant ideas for me. A recurring subject in the paintings is *the yellow man*. It is not important if it is a man, a women or a 'they', yellow or red, only in these paintings it happens to be yellow and may look like a man, a woman. It embodies all that is wrong or evil. May be a situation, a concept, a feeling, a group or an individual, the specific narrative is up to anyone, I make my own. Many will have to do with power. It can reflect ones inside or it may look like a bundle of humanoids.

...

All of these government institutions are in place because of our, as a society, inability to evolve from unstable structures that nurture hierarchy and fear. Many will call that a democracy, but that is not true. There were some attempts in the past to take (federal) government out of the equation (like Spanish civil war or revolution in late 1930s'). But our society is built around completely different functions, that for most, are too far away from their stable comfort zone, that is understandable. Some *nations* took very good ideas from socialism and unfortunately raped the whole concept, by taking advantage of the situation (USSR), and basically made most of the world (not all) repulse against the genuine ideas, and against the full analysis of unstable and unfair capitalism. Something like libertarian socialism ideas are worth working towards, for the long run, despite all the stigma surrounding the misfortune associated with similar ideas. It does not have to be a complete fairytale, it could be something to hope for the future, until that time, giving it space in small scale for trial and error. There is no denying, for the 'available' opportunity and 'protection' in our current system, but there is a possibility for the future to create something that allows everyone to live, rather than only survive.

...

There can be many different situations that lead to all kinds of decisions by higher-ups, that are said to be "justified", is just a load of bull crap. Every human is born free, or should be, so no one can overpower or forcefully take that right away, that is up to nature, natural events and chance. Especially many civilian people are just caught in the crossfire, for no good reason, except some argument between *nations* (not justifiable), persons (figures in power) or religions (reality diversions). It is worse when the civilians are brainwashed into thinking, that whatever reason there is, it is good enough to, for a representative group of people, start killing another representative group of people, that also will do the same. It is a magical circle of bullshit and death, lead by the whipped cream of society.

•••

As much as I would like to completely devote myself into making this change now, I am not very able to. Mainly because I do not know all the theory yet. I can imagine, maybe, placing myself in a situation, where I would have to use *Black Blocs* tactics even, just because I do not see another way for the moment. To protect my identity against the system, so I could speak and act for change. These measures are very drastic, that I do not have a problem with, but maybe there is a better way. I dress up in colorful dresses, silk shirts, painted nails, perfect makeup, but also in the evenings, every week or so, I go to a basement where a noise-band plays and I start a friendly mosh pit, so really

there is a balance here. Drastic methods may appear. To find a good path for change, I need to do more research in books, videos, people around me and far from me.

•••

Compromise may not always be the correct solution in our polluted society. We would hope to make everything fair to everyone, and for that, most of the times, we come into a compromise. But yet when one party, that is morally unstable or neglects basic human rights (like extreme alt-right), the settlement is compromised and distorted. One could believe that the left nowadays suffers from the case of 'agreeing with some as long as they can pretend to have a stand'. But what do they end up protecting, if not only their 'nice guys' image. There is too much of complying in favor of the right, whose morals go against too many unstable ideas and basic human rights, it is not very accepting of differences. How can anyone be proud and put their full trust into the left, whilst they stand with no confidence and just keep being nice, instead of working vigorously towards their aims. It seems like the right becomes the one that are loudmouth brats and the left is a bit of an enabling parent. Maybe a bit harsh, but why not to be? Hopefully the situation will start changing.

...

There are still so many issues that need to be solved in our society, yet some people think those are not issues or rather unsolvable, too complicated topics to need to be solved. One of these is sexism, as far as we moved forward, there is still a lot to improve. For example Lithuania reintroduced conscription and compulsory military service, but only for men, the women just have an option to sign up if they want to. So this bundle of people (country) shouts to everyone that men must go, if drafted, and women can participate, if they would like to, not even mentioning that this whole new law is tragic and no one should be called, drafted. Another example is when Popular people that talk loud and are easy reachable, like Jordan Peterson, scramble groups of people with sexist ideas, backing them up by demeaning women in comparison to men. Stating that men need to protect their 'manliness', they are more intelligent and women are more agreeable, and do not possess such drive. Comments like that are just floating around in the air for any poor bastard to latch on. These bastard groups continue to devalue working women in all fields or do not acknowledge their work at all. It can be very difficult to work with such negative and discouraging surroundings. It is not right to project and exclude fellow humans, for their inherent features.

Now are the times of working on solving many issues, or attempting to, that is very bright minded. We must work harder to deny such ideas that spread wide of all kinds of representatives as government or J. Peterson and many more, even worse, and all the poor unintelligent, insensitive poor bastards. The issue needs to be louder and in

everyone's face until it is no longer an issue. That will take time, but what would be the point, if not to be idealistic about such things. Everyone deserves to be respected and happy.

•••

All the humanoids are the same and different. In the paintings they all are in different colors with no specific gender or age. That should not matter in this concept. For now the colors of different figures are chosen on a personal feeling of the color itself in relation to the composition. There is no more meaning, to each figure, then the one you can create for yourself. Playing with the colors to create a composition, so it would emphasize the details in comparison the whole. That is the tactic for now. There may be more or less like these in the future. For now it is *Please Poke The Bear* as a reverse idiom of 'poke the bear'. Referring to a difficult topic, idea and not an actual bear. There is really no need to explain more on this. It is a representation of society as we have now and what we make of it.

•••

Every side has a story, has possibly compelling arguments and every individual will feel more close to one or another. That is fair. The topic of nationalism is also seen very differently. One of the sides defends nationalism to the bone, as it is the grounds for a powerful bordered up (fenced) *nation*. Representatives like from *PragerU* (a Youtube channel) of this side preach that: family comes first, community second and nation third - that makes it an upside-down pyramid. It is a trust diagram, that represents a sovereign, protected and powerful nation, they claim. This mindset usually paints a picture of persons who want to put strict borders around its area, against different people. There is a fear that someone different from you will take your place, opportunities or belongings. For some, that becomes a reason for a need to build walls - for protection.

To stay in power is a lot easier, when there is no concern, no sense of responsibility for the rest of the world, but your own borders. Craving for ultimate power, over other *nation*, creates a toxic nationalism. Extreme problems come up to the surface, only to protect some power that no single individual actually has, except for the fat cats that benefit from it. With the use of media differences between people are put under a microscope, so everything slightly negative is pitted against each other and that evolves into fear of opening your culture up to another. If talking about nationalism, this channel *PragerU*, focuses on the aspect of ultimate power and no responsibilities beyond *borders*. The way they present it still implies that other *nation* people might do harm, because they are different, therefore it is important to close *borders*. Important issues as racism, false accusations, low pay, unfairness and so, materialize in to actual serious

situations. Not to mention, problems that arise for different people within some *nations* borders, their lives are threatened with deportation and of course, they become targets for all the other issues. This fear in nationalism stands against unity and acceptance, (not the forceful kind).

It is not about one *nation* occupying another, because that is also thinking, that one is better or superior than the other - that is not fair, that is a *freak passage* of craving for more power. So the other side of the story would say that nationalism is unnecessary. Bordering up from each other, with the sole purpose of being the top power, just creates problems instead of solutions for all. Not having a nationalism based mindset (for many) can prevent such disturbing issues in society as racism, unfairness, misconception about immigrants and minorities (in context), and many more.

Holding on to a *nation's* areas culture and traditions is a beautiful and important part for each and every one of us. Nationalism is not needed for keeping tradition, language and culture, because that is already important for every person. When people of different backgrounds, tradition, cultures come together, more empathy and solutions can come up, it is sharing. Less fighting, anger and misunderstandings come up. By opening doors, there come more opportunities for everyone rather than only for one advantaged power. Essentially everyone is the same - human - and nationality is just a piece of paper with a code.

...

Let us not forget about the natural beauties of the world. Something that is important to preserve, like nature and animals. We live here all together. We, intelligent humans, must take responsibility for our actions on nature and animals, and we must take care of all that as well. Global warming is a big issue, that we must address as one of the priorities. There should be a change for harmony to all of us, on this beautiful world.

•••

Sometimes all you need is to help one person and not everyone. It is not a problem, if you do not think about all the complicated structures of society every day. Just make sure you do not enable the systems currently at play or try to justify it just to find some comfort. Recognize the problems and do not be afraid, there is space for everything. For now, I at least, try to help a friend or two, when in need, and it is not a problem at all. I know someone can help me, when I am in need, because now that is what we need in this system.

•••

Creating significant, idealistic pieces is as important as creating pieces meant to only enjoy. Both are worth in any occasion.

•••

Educating yourself on such complicated matters is very important at any age you do it. But for a true change to happen in the future, the youngest minds amongst us need to be educated. Schools need to operate in a more open and compassionate way. Kids in most schools learn about how to work in a capitalistic, power driven world. Some teachers pose themselves as foreign entities to the students, that can create an idea of hierarchy and authority. They say you need to learn this and that, so you could get a good well-paid job to support your family. This creates a mentality of compliance with everything that has been told to you. The structure of most schools is so complicated; very authoritarian, sometimes dependent on religion of the region, almost militarized, not engaging, they do not take students' ideas into account. There is not a lot of representation on different kind of societies. Schools do not provide many programs that help with free and critical thinking about the structures of the world, people and such. There is really not a lot of space given for that. Well that is most of the schools around the world. I went to nowadays adapted Vilnius Waldorf school, where we have a board of teachers, students and parents instead of having a principle and his/hers helper people. The quality of this school was freedom in speaking your mind as a student and it being taken seriously, we were all able to make a change so it would benefit everyone. To some extent, there is space given for free thought and expression, that was really appreciated. The basic structure could act outside of the box, if needed to a particular situation of student. Teachers were not some aliens, they were people to come to for a conversation or school things. Relations that formed in the school were very communicative and thought me a lot of compassion towards one another. This is only one example of a different kind of education and it is also not perfect. I was a part of my school's community as much as I was a part of the rest of Vilnius culture, and I had many different activities with kids from other schools. So I have compared my experience to others a lot and found many pros and, of course, some cons.

There should be more material provided on different movements and basic structures to students, so they could make their own estimate of the situation. A school should be a safe place that also teaches dangers, gives perspectives and creates relations, helps to understand oneself and another. Children/teens are so complicated; they go through a range of emotions in one day, it is important to take some time to understand them figure it out. It would help to build a new and better society. Education from a young age is one of the most important things we should focus on.

•••

In such a cloudy society humor can be a savior, a helper to get through the hours, days, weeks and so on. An absurd story, a fun adventure, a dumb conversation, a superficial movie; everything can become a subject of humor, that might help to push to the next day. The colored figurative paintings also tend to have humorous qualities, like some sarcasm and such. So the *funny* element becomes a smoother way of engaging with the paintings, that usually reflect a bummer of a society. It is important to unwind once in a while, just to be able to fight the good fight.

A funny way of representing harsh reality can be very relieving to create and to observe as a beholder. Sarcasm goes hand in hand with political-social issues representation, like comics or just some art works. It makes it easier to show it for others and accept it as important information, but with a lighter scoop. My paintings do not always have that, but it is an important part that comes up once in a while, or at least in small amounts. Making this kind of heavy information more approachable is crucial for more conversation to come up.

...

This is just a beginning that one day will be a lot more focused and condensed. Have space in your mind and conversations to speak about idealistic goals and a possibility of reaching them in the future. Stand up for yourself, support others, do not prey on differences.

It is a magical circle of bullshit and death, lead by the whipped cream of society.

## Sources:

Noam Chomsky book "On Anarchism" first published in USA 2013, published by Penguin books 2014. 28-33p, 117-p

David Graeber book "The Democracy Project" first published in USA in 2013, published by Penguin books 2014. Quote from Introduction 13-14p

Richard D Wolff YouTube channel on any topic, lecture sessions "Advanced & Applied Marxian Economics"

Mario Vargas Llosa book "Notes On The Death Of Culture", first published in Spain in 2012, published by Faber and Faber in 2015. 39p

YouTube channel "Innuendo Studios" on Alt-right topic

Interviews on YouTube with Jordan Peterson

YouTube channel "PragerU" on any topic

•••

## Teachers:

David Stroband Martijn Schuppers Wim Bosch