



EARS TO HEAR, EYES TO SEE

Mariupol Deesis

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A series of works dedicated to Mariupol, its defenders, and its residents. A cycle we finished just last month. Eleven icons that seemed to be painted with tears and blood. Works that for a long time I could not, dared not publish anywhere, and which I could not show to almost anyone. This is too painful, too personal. . . .

As I painted them I was thinking about Mariik last spring, still whole, unbombed, warm, spring-tender. . . . I remembered how I brought our project "Icons on the Ammo Boxes" there in the spring of 2015. . . .

The painting was hard, but letting go was even harder. . . . Something was preventing me. . . . Perhaps I worried about whether I had told the truth, or maybe felt ashamed not to be with them, those who are still there, in inhumane conditions, holding on and supporting all of us at the same time. . . .

But, finally, I had to let go. . . .

—*Oleksandr Klymenko*

