



Козак—Молитовник (The Cossack’s Prayer)

Date

2024

Primary Maker

Roman Selivachov

Medium

Wooden base from ammunition box, egg tempera, gold leaf

Description

The Cossack’s Prayer features the traditional image of

Cossack Mamay, a Ukrainian folk hero. He plays the bandura, a stringed instrument, and maintains a serene demeanor as war surrounds him. The inscription includes the artist’s interpretation of a prayer featured in a Slovenian liturgical text. Everlasting, Merciful God, forbid the Muscovites to come onto Ukrainian land! Drive them away with Thy power, confuse them with Thy anger, fill their faces with disgrace so that they may be ashamed and embarrassed for centuries to come, and may the wicked perish. Crush their weapons, destroy their castles, strike out their names, and extinguish their memory. And let them see that Thy name is the Lord. Uplifting Ukrainian arms, let Thy name be glorified among Thy faithful. We humbly pray, hear us swiftly, and have mercy upon us! Amen! Selivachov, who is a professional icon painter and artist, began painting ammunition boxes in 2014 at the start of Russia’s military campaign. Friends and volunteers continue to bring back boxes from the front and, in turn, Selivachov provides them with funds to be used for urgent military needs. “It is a sort of soldier-artist symbiosis,” he says.

Dimensions

not including metal hinges: 22 3/4 × 14 1/4 × 1 3/4 in. (57.7851 × 36.1951 × 4.445 cm)