

**Solomia Tkachyk** was born in 1978 in Ternopil, in the West of Ukraine. She studied at Lviv Academy of Arts (monumental painting) in 1995-2001. Member of the National Union of Artists of Ukraine since 2004, she has participated in many Ukrainian and International exhibitions. In 1998 she was named a laureate of the International exhibition “Vysoky Zamok”. Her personal exhibition was held in 2003 in Ternopil.

Solomia comments on her work “Twins”:

“Jesus says: “Blessed are you who are poor, for the Kingdom of God belongs to you” (Luke 6:20). It means that the fact of a financial or pecuniary poorness makes entry to the Kingdom of Heaven easier. When poor Lazarus died, he was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side because of his poverty only. God loves the poor and “He has filled the hungry with good things” (Luke 1:53). Indeed, those who posses nothing wait a lot from Lord, and we know, that “it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God” (Luke 18:25). However, in the Gospel from Matthew Jesus doesn’t say only “Blessed are you who are poor”, but “Blessed are the poor in spirit” (Matthew 5:3). The Lord asks us to be not only poor financially, but to posses the heart of a poor man, it means to have humble and meek heart. Such men know that without God they are nothing, they acknowledge their own worthlessness. Such people are poor in spirit. That is why two people with empty jug, depicted in my picture, symbolically represent those, who are thirsty for God and seek for poverty in spirit.”

**“Twins”. Cardboard, tempera. 2003. 80x60**

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