

PEOPLE

An exceptional person of our modern art, youthfully curious for various areas of creativity, a versatile artist, a painter by vocation and in love with painting no matter in which style concept it appears, Mića Popović, here unexpectedly chose the engraving- one of the oldest artistic graphic technique- in order to elaborate the plates for the map "People". And, although engraving provides great opportunities, the artist selected a simple, concise expression, exclusively with a line, without shading and Valerian shading, without modeling and for reducing the planes and depths.

Having the talent for the ability of observation, the author, by all his heart and mind, took small, ordinary truths from life reality and by the language of visual arts transported them to the general and common. The subjects of his graphics are people and he found the models in ordinary, everyday life, in nameless crowd. „L'uomo qualunque“ and human figure attracted his deepest interest from the very beginning of his creation and during the all previous decades did not leave him, although in various periods he had various approaches to the character study, character research and realization, i.e. visual art solutions for the portraits or studies.

On these engravings, Mića Popović presented, with minimally expressive tools, various psychological conditions which a human unconsciously reveals by gestures, poses or expressions, as well as the face expressions reveal, out of our will, the traces of various life destinies. Unlike his canvases, in which, besides the richly painted surfaces, he sometimes enters real objects in order to, also in that way, emphasize the characteristics of the person in a portrait, the „People“ of the engraving prints are deprived from the details which would more precisely determine their personality, profession and social affiliation. Nevertheless, in these graphics, every individual figure bears individual characteristics. In neutral, clean background, by which he avoids placing the people in time and space, the artist, with a sharp, but at the same time a flexible line, creates the arabesque of the figure or personality and with only several, looking superficial but clean and sharp movements, presented character, expression or state of mind. Sometimes, intentionally, he ceased a sharp movement and by that he gave the drawing the easiness and illusion of a sketch. That is the greatness of the artist's mastery and the value of these prints.

Vanja Kraut,

November, 1984.