

D.J Mr. Death With Ora Ruven

Animation by Ora Ruven

Synopsis

In this animation, 3D paintings are created in VR using the tilt brush program, along with AR technology. Figures of old men, women, and skeletons (three-dimensional models) dance at home, in a real living room, to the sounds of the sixties. The protagonist, an older woman, dancing with the cartoon characters, gives in the background a monologue about the art of living in the shadow of death. Unlike the cartoon characters, the protagonist appears in the form of a realistic avatar created in volumetric video technology. A real, aging man appears in a merry swing dance with a woman skeleton. A stormy Swing-dance takes place at the end, like a duel between a skeleton and the woman protagonist - in an amorphous space that is not this world. The woman protagonist hits the skeleton, knocks it down, and then continues spinning on her own.

Coming to terms with the impending death stems from a strong need to extract every moment. It is this extraction that underlies the party and offers the classic option described in *Ars Moriendi*: not to weep over death but to prepare for it, to go to die properly. *Ars Moriendi* is a guide written in the fifteenth century for those who are going to die, those who are lying on their deathbeds due to the black plague, and waiting for death, and are mainly concerned with the purification of the soul before they die to reach heaven. My video also suggests preparing for death by celebrating life and holding on to it as much as possible.

DJ Mr. Death — Thanatos (the god of death in Greek mythology) at a party with Ora Ruven is a video work celebrating the end-of-life party or:

How to die and stay alive. This is how I join the tradition of *Ars Moriendi* - how to die properly, as well as the dance of the dead in different cultures, mocking death that while there is nowhere to escape from it and yet it is no longer scary, so it is a kind of victory.

Another aspect of this work is the critique of the whining attitude and pity for the elderly. There is a close connection between sadness and bitterness and old age, without the ability to believe that even in old age it is possible to dance and have fun, especially at a time when there are no more tasks and roles.