

MASKS

WILLIAM MCCORMICK

As a photographer and producer I very much believe in the school of thought that artists should leave interpretations of their work to the audience. So, I will use this allotted space mainly to pay tribute to the people behind these photographs. Evgeny Freeone, Svetlana Abzalova, Sergey Ozerov and I worked on five series together over less than a year's time. They are wonderful friends, supremely imaginative artists and deserve the vast lion's share of credit for what I was able to capture with my lens. I am honoured to have worked with them. The six photos printed here are from our first session titled, simply, *Masks*.

The power of these images springs from many sources: Evgeny's virtuoso body-paint transformed Svetlana into a tragic being, one whose soul is bared to us no matter where she places the mask in her hands. Each pose is a jagged step in a woman's journey, her persona partially defined by the paint, lighting and photography of the men around her. Yet, it is Svetlana and her character that remains dominant here and she shines through in every photograph. In the end, she is triumphant.

But displaying these images is only half of our equation. So, I will turn this introduction topsy-turvy and ask you to lower your own masks, those between artists and audience. We live in an era of unprecedented communication; tell us your interpretation, share in the art. Unmask. Our email is vphoto100@gmail.com.

We await your thoughts.

WILLIAM MCCORMICK is an American writer, photographer and producer living in Europe. His photographs have been previously published in America, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. He regularly photographs the finest in Eastern European body-art.

