

PART TWO

On Remembering Latvia (prints 1986 - 1990) - "In 1986, I began a series of prints a little closer to home," wrote Aleksandrs in 1993. "...From 1986 through 1990, I produced prints of the beautiful cities of Latvia: Riga, Cēsis, Rēzekne and Daugavpils. These scenic views accentuated the historic beauty of the architecture of Latvia's cities. The political and social message of these prints was purposely made subtle. It was the first time in my career as a socially conscious artist that I was forced to censor my own images." The artist's relatives who had survived Siberian labor camps were in danger of arrest if associated with an open critic of past Soviet genocide. In addition, travel visas could have been denied to Aleksandrs who visited Latvia in 1982, 1985 and 1988 prior to emigration to Latvia in 1990.



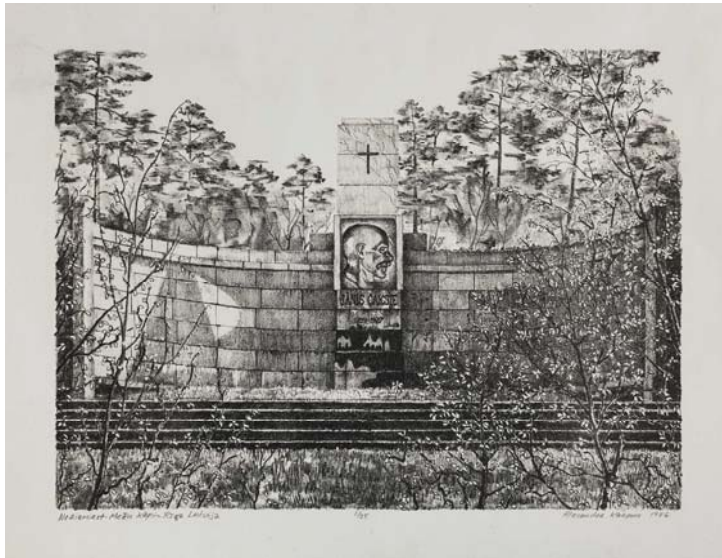
Old Riga, Latvia. (1986) Oforts. 23x30



Riga, Period of Latvia. (1986)
Oforts. 23x59

Riga, Russian Period. (1986)
Oforts. 23x61





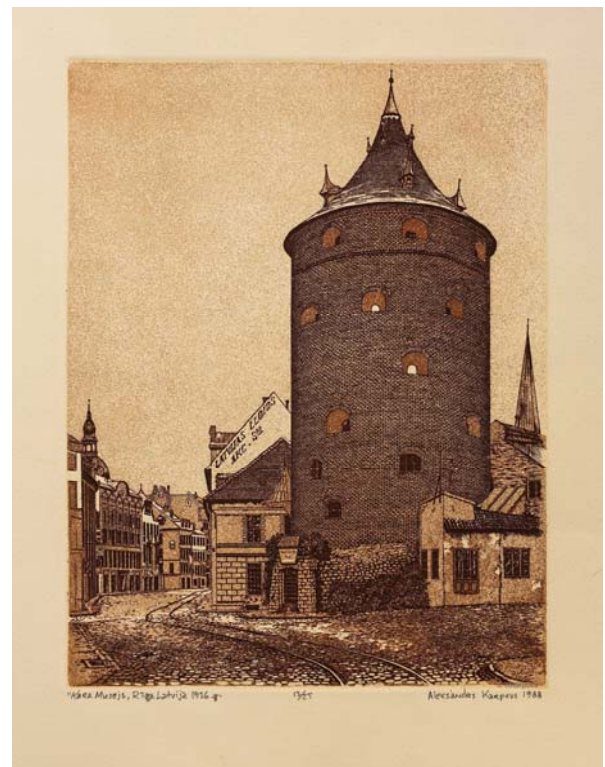
Remember. Forest Cemetery. Riga. Latvia. (1986) Lithograph. 29x40

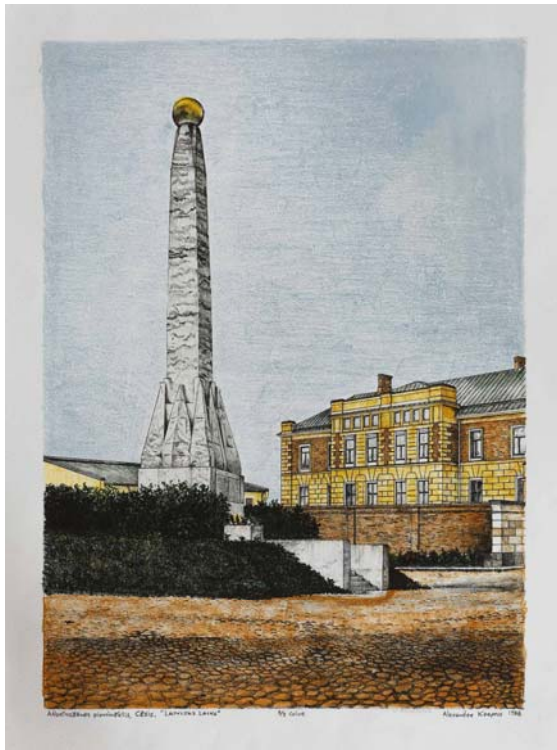
During this period one print, “**Remember – Forest Cemetery – Riga Latvia**” (1986) was among Aleksandrs’ “subtly critical” social realist works. This lithograph depicts the grave of Janis Čakste (1859-1927), the first president of the free Latvia, as seen in 1982 when Aleksandrs first visited the site. The monument was dirty and hidden behind bushes. The Communists had placed their own graves prominently in front of this historic site with a guard booth nearby to monitor those brave enough to visit Janis Čakste’s grave.



Brothers Cemetery. Riga Latvia. (1986) Lithograph. 35x42

“One of the finer examples of this series of prints (spanning 1986 to 1990) is ‘**The War Museum**’ (1988). Offset and aquatint. 23x30

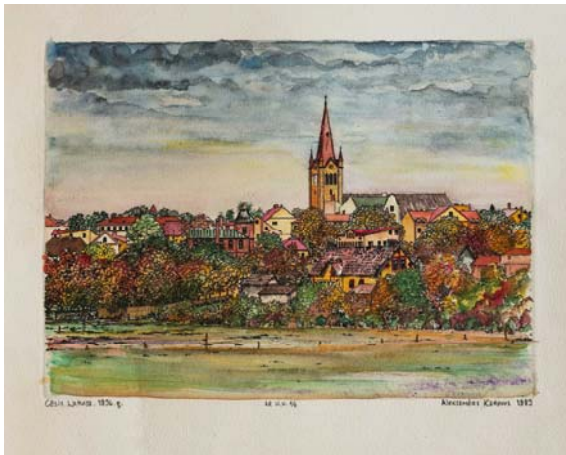




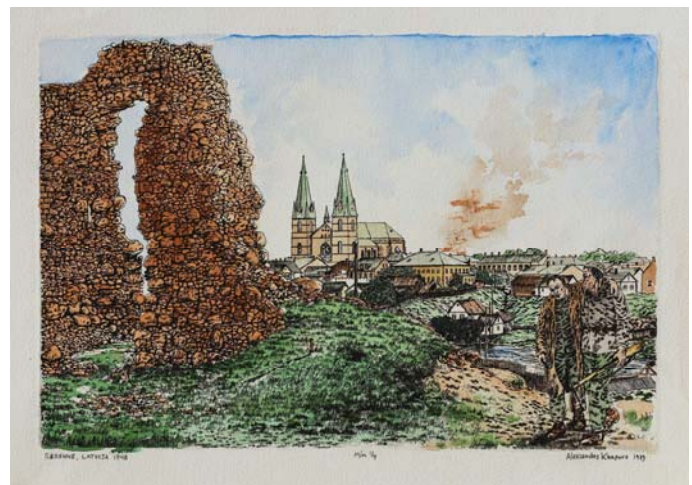
Liberation Monument in Cesis. Latvian Period. (1988) Lithograph. 29x41



Riga from the Daugava in 1930. (1989) Offset. 24x40



Cesis. Latvia. 1936. (1989) Offset 23x30



Rēzekne, Latvija, 1948 (1988) Offset. 27x40. In this print, two Latvian “freedom fighters” are shown in 1948. The Latvian resistance continued to fight Soviet occupation until 1957.



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