

ODYSSEUS

basic swimming
techniques for advanced

An exhibition
with illustrations
and stories
by Raycho Stanev

NAGLEDNA+
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Odysseus is often a symbol of the passion for travel, discovery and adventure while an odyssey is a journey back home – the conscious rediscovery of the familiar, where the end meets the beginning. Walter Benjamin writes that there are two basic types of story tellers: those whose stories are about the familiar (embodied in the figure of the stationary farmer) and those whose stories are about the unfamiliar (as represented by the travelling seaman). The places where the two groups met and mingled in medieval times were the workshops. Other such places, we might add, were pubs, barbers' shops and, of course, markets – all of them places for socialization, exchange of information, entertainment and relaxation. Social media today make an effort to provide a necessary substitute for these, but are only partially successful. We still need live contact and real relationships, and a Sunday market is just the place to get some of these.

For many, and especially for many migrants, a Saturday market is a place where you expect to encounter the familiar: buy products and objects from your homeland, touch base with compatriots, exchange stories and information. You might also encounter/run into/buy the unfamiliar. At such a market, there are story tellers as well as story collectors. The following paintings/objects contain stories collected during my regular tours of the market in September and October.

Raycho Stanev

