

An Outstanding Collection of Important Russian Art of the Soviet Era



Part II

- 1. Pushkin Collection – Soviet Era Art an Introductory essay**
- 2. Kenneth Pushkin – Biography**
- 3. Artists presented in the Collection - Selected biographies and images**

1. PUSHKIN COLLECTION - SOVIET ERA ART

Russian art of the post World War II (Soviet) era made an important contribution to the cultural heritage of Russia, but, until recently, little was known of its richness and beauty and its leading artists because of Soviet isolationism. As art historian and State Russian Museum curator Vladimir Kruglov wrote, in his seminal work *Russian Impressionism*, Russian painting of this period was for a long time "an unknown and under-rated phenomenon." However, as recent sales at Christie's and Sotheby's testify, there is a growing fascination for art of this period. One of the problems auction houses face is the difficulty in obtaining works by these artists. That is why the Pushkin Collection represents such a unique opportunity for a museum, institution, discerning collector or astute investor to acquire large holdings of these artists.

Art from the Soviet era is now being avidly collected and recognized by art historians and collectors as some of the best art produced in the 20th century. Art scholar and collector Kenneth Pushkin entered the Russian art scene in the early 90's. After a period of research and with the direction and support of the State Russian Museum, he focused on important life bodies of work by the leading St. Petersburg artists of the period. With his trained eye, Pushkin compiled a collection that represented the spectrum of great artists of this period, respected within the Russian art circles and ready to assume their rightful legacy internationally.

He discovered the works of Nikolai Timkov, now considered the paladin of Post WW II Russian Impressionism – the favoured student of Russian greats Isaac Brodsky and Igor Grabar; Vasili Golubev, the extraordinary Russian Expressionist who dared to stand apart - at great peril to himself - in the Soviet system; Viktor Korovin, recognized as one of the finest Soviet academic plein air painters of the period; and Boris Chetkov, the Modernist whose mastery of colour and emotional expression was without boundary and without peers in the Soviet art world where he too faced oppression, only to be recognized as a national treasure by the Presidential administration in the final year of his life.

Kruglov and Pushkin alike in their writings offer enlightening historical overviews that compare and contrast these diverse Russian painters with each other and with their European and American counterparts, and chronicle their struggles for recognition. The paintings themselves are fascinating, not only as historical documents but as beautiful works of art.

The Pushkin Collection carries forward the rich cultural heritage of Russia demonstrating a range of styles that is historically significant, original in composition and form, and beautiful in its depiction of the human condition.

Most non-Russians tend to equate Russian art of the 20th century with the Avant-Garde, modernist art movements (1890-1930) such as Neo-Primitivism, Constructivism and Futurism, as represented by Lissitsky, Malevich, Tatlin, Rodchenko and Chagall.

However, much Soviet art of the 1960s to 1990s was ignored by both scholars and the general public until recently. Now, as artists such as Timkov and Chetkov are being sold by the leading auction houses. Interest in these artists and this important period of Russian life and culture is increasing rapidly – as are the prices they fetch. The artists are significant as they not only offer a vision of Russian life not widely known even within Russia but their work is technically highly accomplished and often hauntingly beautiful.

2. Kenneth Pushkin – A short biography

Throughout his life, Kenneth Pushkin has spent his time in the world of Fine Arts as a scholar, publisher and collector. After graduating from the University of New Mexico with a BFA in Art History, Kenneth travelled throughout the 1970s to the remote regions of north-west arctic Alaska where he lived with the native Yupiq Eskimos. He studied their ancient culture and collected the rarest and most exquisite examples of their ancient figurative ivories. In addition to building collections for such institutions as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the De Menil Foundation, Kenneth authored the text, '*Seevookak, the Ancient Art of St. Lawrence Island, Alaska*'.

In the 1980s, Kenneth formed Out West, Inc., a fine art publishing company specializing in limited edition sculptures and prints based on Pop Art themes. Out West became a fixture in the Art Expo world catering to galleries around the globe. To facilitate the growing demand for their sculptures, Out West built an innovative cold casting foundry producing editions for such clients as Walt Disney and Sony Signatures.

Interested in his family heritage, Kenneth turned his attention to Russia in the 1990s where he travelled extensively, immersing himself in the language and culture. In 1994, Admiral Alexander Pushkin introduced Kenneth to the opportunity to acquire and export Soviet Era paintings from State-operated galleries. Prompted by the initial success, Kenneth committed himself to the study of Russian art history. He developed close relationships with the major Russian museums and their historians and focused on the acquisition of important lifetime collections concentrating on those of such notable artists as Nikolai Timkov, Vasily Golubev, Viktor Korovin and Boris Chetkov.

During his years in Russia, Kenneth developed the Pushkin Fund, a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to promoting goodwill under the legacy of the great poet. To facilitate the work of the Fund, Kenneth has hosted an ongoing series of high visibility entertainment and gala events in the U.S. and Russia, including the annual Pushkin Golden Autumn Ball at Catherine Palace. Currently, the Pushkin Fund is working with the International Olympic Committee to produce key cultural events for the

2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. These generous efforts have presented an opportunity for Kenneth to grow his circle of influential associates, many from highest levels of the fine art world.

In 2000, Kenneth opened the Pushkin Gallery on prestigious Canyon Road in Santa Fe, New Mexico - a world-renowned art centre. Exclusively featuring Russian fine art, the Pushkin Gallery has published a succession of scholarly texts and today has become recognized as one of the most important and successful Russian art galleries in the world.

3. Artists - selected biographies and images

Evgeny Balakshin 1962-present



EB003 Village Girl 29.00 x 23.50 Oil on Canvas 2005

Evgeny Balakshin was born in 1962. A member of the Professional Union of Artists of Russia., she received systematic art education in Saransk Art School. Evgeny has worked and exhibited in France, England, Spain, Portugal and America.. Her works are included in the Mordovia Republican Museum of Fine Arts of S.D. Erzya and other private collections.

Mikhail Bogatyrev 1924 - present



MB160 Sunny Winter Day 14.00 x 20.00 Oil on Panel 1958

Born on November 23 in the town of Zvenigorod, Mikhail Grigorovich Bogatyrev did not start out as a painter. He attended middle school in Moscow and after graduation, worked for five years at the Moscow Aircraft-Building Plant where he was decorated with the medal for “Moscow Defence”. But, while working at the plant, he studied one year (1944-1945) at the Art Studio of Central Trade Union Headquarters.

The well of artistic ability tapped, Bogatyrev continued on and began studying at the Moscow 1905 Memorial Art School under renowned professors V.N. Bakshev and S.G. Grigoryev in 1945. 1950 to 1956 saw him attending the Moscow State Art Institute named after Vasilii Surikov. His teachers were P.V. Malkov, G.G. Korolev and Professor Vasili Efanov. While in school, Bogatyrev traveled to Vladimir, Riga, Odessa, and the Ural mountains and put in some time working at the Moscow Regional Art Foundation in 1952.

He created his first series dedicated to portraits of craftsmen from 1957 to 1959. Later, in 1965, his travels took him to Vologda and Arkhangelsk Regions and three years later, he travelled to Czechoslovakia as part of the USSR Union of Artists' Delegation. It was during that time, between the years 1964 and 1966, that he worked on portraits of factory workers living in the town of Elektrostal resulting in the a series of paintings displayed at the Zonal Exhibition entitled “In A Single Formation”. Two years later, Bogatyrev worked at the suburban Moscow collective farm “Lesnye Polyany” in preparation for the exhibition entitled “Land and People” travelling to France during the same year (1968).

His travel, work and art resulted in Bogatyrev being awarded the medal for “Valiant Labor” in 1970. Two years later he began working as part of the artists' team in the town of Pushchino. The next year, he worked on a series of paintings at the country house “Akademichka”. Finally, in 1975 Bogatyrev marked a high point in his career, his first personal exhibition, held in Khimki, Moscow.

Mikhail Bogatyrev's works are beautifully displayed in many national museums. The artist's works are possession in many private collections in Russia and abroad.

Vassily Borisenkov 1924 - 2007



VPB149 Beautiful Spring 9.60 x 13.20 Oil on Board 1956

Vasily Borisenkov was fortunate enough to begin his concentrated study of art at the age of fourteen at the Leningrad Intermediate Art School. Those formidable years gave him the foundation necessary to be accepted at the St. Petersburg Academy of Fine Arts, otherwise known as the Repin Institute of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture of the USSR Academy of Arts. It was there that he obtained the most rigorous classical art education, in addition to the practical application of his painting.

During this same period Borisenkov was influenced by the well-known Russian Realist, Sergei Ivanov, and the classical art of the late 1900's. Borisenkov, like many of his colleagues, had a deep respect and love of nature which is evident in his plein-air paintings. However, Borisenkov also liked the industrial landscape of the city. From the Black Sea to the Caucasus Mountains, to the woodlands of Siverskaya, Borisenkov painted the world around him in his motherland, with great passion and satisfaction.

Not influenced by what most people would consider retirement age, Borisenkov's paintings continue to represent the most beautiful, and youthful exuberant side of life, and more importantly, the vivid countryside of Russia.

Pavel Chernov 1918 - present



PC502 Portrait of a Spanish Woman 10.75 x 10.50 Oil on Panel 1943

Pavel Chernov was born in the town of Kemerovo. He was fortunate to begin his study of art during his school years at the Art Studio in Kemerovo. It became obvious to his professors that Pavel was an extremely talented student, and he was sent from the Art Studio to the Leningrad School for Young Talents; a school organized by the Academy of Fine Arts.

With the commencement of the Great Patriotic War, young Chernov interrupted his studies, joined the army and was immediately assigned to the front line. In the miniscule free time he had, Chernov sketched and painted studies of his comrades and his surroundings. Later in his lifetime, an entire exhibition was devoted to these works painted during his wartime years. Following the war, Pavel Chernov returned to Leningrad to reinstate himself in the Academy of Fine Arts where Boris Ioganson, a renowned master of Russian art, became his professor. Following the war and his re-entry into the Academy, Pavel developed an interest in painting animals. He attempted to depict distinguishing characteristics of an eclectic category of animals by observing their movements, idiosyncrasies and inherent traits.

The president of the Academy, Igor Grabar, was impressed by the series in which Chernov featured animals. The paintings were sent to the International Art Exhibition in the USA. After graduation from the Academy, Pavel Chernov returned to Kemerovo. He focused on the painting of portraits, attempting to capture the psychological nature of his subjects. Included in these portraits were the paintings *Teacher Ponomoreva*, *Gypsy*, *Girl Svetlana*, and *Milkmaid Uastyuzhanina*. In viewing these portraits, one internalizes the character and mood of the subject as expressed on canvas by Chernov. He appreciated compositions of children and the pathos evoked by the painting of children. His own warm childhood reflections influenced his creativity and the expansion of this theme. Such works as *At Home With The Book*, *Friends With Sunflowers* and *Three Friends* are considered invaluable and were purchased by the Kemerovo and Krasnoyarsk Fine Arts Museums.

In the 1970's, Chernov focused on developing his talent in the arena of still life paintings. Through these paintings, Chernov began to initiate a different technique. His use of colour became more expressive. Chernov felt "the artist must paint with delight!" His accomplishments are a part of the collections of the Cultural Fund of Siberia, the Fine arts Museums in Kemerovo, Krasnoyarsk, Tomsk and Omsk. They are also found in private collections in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Boris Chetkov 1926 - 2010



BAC455 Minstrels 26.00 x 30.00 Acrylic on Canvas 1979

Boris Aleksandrovich Chetkov was born in 1926 in the city of Novagy Lyalya in the Sverdlovskaya Region of Russia. In 1959, he graduated from Sverdlovsk Secondary Art School after having studied in the studio of the highly acclaimed artist Vladimir Shmelyov.

In 1966, Chetkov graduated from the famous art school named after Mukhina and began his professional career as a senior artist at the Malaya Vishera Glass Plant. Boris immersed himself into art with an ardent desire to deepen his understanding of the existing techniques of art to use as a foundation for creating new techniques.

At the beginning of the 1970's Boris Chetkov belonged to the avant-garde trend in painting, simultaneously working with different art materials such as wood, stone, metal, ceramics, porcelain and glass. His work was both experimental and "cutting edge". Even though it was the soviet period, his work was considered so extraordinary that he became a member of the Leningrad branch of the Russian Federation Union of Artists.

Chetkov actively participated in a variety of Russian, as well as international exhibitions. The uniqueness of his talent was best presented at his personal exhibitions of 1973, the prestigious Hermitage Museum in 1979, 1980, 1989, the Menege Museum, St. Petersburg in 1991, and Finland in 1991. His works have received high appraisals at the World Exhibitions in Osaka and Sapporo, Japan in 1974-1975; at shows in France in 1978 and 1995; Austria and Germany in 1978 and the United States in 1978 and 1992. He also showed his paintings in Australia in 1989 and Venice, Italy in 1994.

Boris Chetkov's works have been acquired by the Russian State Museum of St. Petersburg, by many art museums and galleries throughout Russia, and by various galleries outside of Russia including the United States. His paintings and works remain in private collections in Russia, Italy, France, Austria, Germany, Finland, Australia and the United States

Alexander Dubov 1937 - 2003



AD183 Autumn at the Akademichka 16.00 x 23.00 Oil on Canvas 2000

The artist's illustrious career began with the Alexander's birth in the Tver region of Russia. His parents, both teachers, observed their son's natural talent and arranged for him to attend the Art College at Ivanovsky in 1955. When he graduated in 1960, he travelled to Krasnoyarsk where he participated in the State young artists program until 1963. From there he was accepted in the class of the famous master painter K.M. Maksimov at the Union of Artists in the ancient golden ring town of Pereslavl Zaleski.

1964 brought Dubov back to the Tver region when he stayed at the Academic Dacha as a student of V.F. Tokarev. He was inducted into the Union of Artist and acknowledged as an Honored Artist of the Soviet Union. His years of hard work and discipline paid off as he garnered award after award and was asked to produce important works for major State exhibitions in Moscow, the work leading to his travels throughout Russia and the peak of his career

From 1965 to 1988 Dubov's careers lead him to travel extensively around Russia capturing different landscapes on his canvas. Noted for their wonderful compositions and rich application of intense colours, Dubov's works were proclaimed a triumph in every city and town where he travelled. He was recognized, rewarded and his unique paintings collected by the regional museums. His mastery of technique built through many years of discipline inspired Dubov to experiment with colour and application always coming up with unique original solutions. Russian art historians note that by painting so many different territories Dubov celebrates the Russian landscape. His images are unique and the artist never painted the same place twice.

During his lifetime, he was recognized as a great master of plein air painting with his works admitted into the Tretyakov State Gallery in Moscow and the State Russian Museum in St. Petersburg. By the early 1990's his work was exposed to an international audience with many of his works being sold at auctions in France and collected by art enthusiasts worldwide.

Piotr Gergilenko 1923- present

Vasily Golubev 1925-1985



VG222 Tanya in the Kitchen 26.00 x 34.00 Oil on Panel 1961B

“In the end, Golubev may be looked upon in the Russian tradition as not being of this world – a sort of Russian “Holy Man” with all of the implied qualifications and attributes – a “Holy Man” who gave his soul and his special gift to the world.” *Albert Kostenevich, Keeper of Impressionist Paintings State Hermitage Museum St. Petersburg, Russia*

Vasily Golubev is arguably one of the most important Russian expressionists of the 20th Century, like other Russian 20th Century painters: Kandinsky, Chagall, Malevich, and more was practically unknown in his homeland.

Born on June 15, 1925, in Medvezhe, a village in the Soligalich Area of the Kostroma Region in the very heart of Northern Russia, Golubev was driven by a desire to study and learn. That desire brought the village boy of Russian peasant roots to study at Leningrad Art School. But his studies were broken off by World War II and it wasn't until 1951 that he finally graduated.

During the 1950s and 60s his art developed along the lines of classical Russian Realism, as he gradually mastered the emotional potential of plein air painting of the kind so powerfully manifested in Russian painting from the end of the 19th Century. His landscapes from this period are melancholy, contemplative images of rural Russia, echoing the paintings of Isaak Levitan.

Ultimately Golubev found his way towards an impressionist understanding of colour. His landscapes became more painterly, and his lyrical descriptive mood was replaced by a manner in which colour came to play an active, central role, and eventually became symbolic. From the early 1970's, Golubev was entirely dedicated to the principles of post-impressionism, of which he had created his own original Russian version. His energetic impasto, the free and open brushstrokes, the disturbing colour harmonies gave the traditionally intimate central Russian landscape drama and a new penetrating content.

Modest, centred within himself and introverted he preferred to spend all his time out in the open air. He had no interest in self-representation or in any of the social and political

manifestations which were obligatory in official art. Official art saw him as an outsider, as something alien.

Golubev never produced a single commissioned portrait. This brilliant exponent of post-impressionism was never part of the cultural elite. If he had been, he would have been seen as western-oriented, a cosmopolitan, a dangerous category for an artist of his day. Instead he was a humble man, a “man of the earth”, and could hardly be suspected of such western leanings. He learned the lessons of impressionism and then post-impressionism independently until they combined, intertwined and became the fruit of his own development. In the face of his incontrovertible fact, the powers-that-be preferred simply to ignore his work.

Golubev’s time was one of isolation in terms of the information available. It was impossible to gain normal objective information about all of the latest trends in art while he was a student. But thanks to Golubev’s independence he emerged through the most turbulent times to create highly cultured and refined paintings. Even in the face of totalitarian oppression he found optimism and the courage to express what was in his heart, engaging in the forbidden art form of expressionism: his own personal version of expressionism, absolutely independent of any connection or knowledge of artistic trends of the west. Yet, curiously, he reached many of the same conclusions as such major expressionists as Munch and Dufy. Golubev combined his naïve folksy view of the world with his personal suffering delivering an intense contemporary statement with an unassuming approach

Igor Grinok



IG204, Peppers 20.00 x 28.00 Oil on Panel, 1948

No details available

Mikhail Konov 1928 - present



MK003 Fall in the Country 20.00 x 27.00 Oil on Panel 1997

Mikhail Konov was born in the village of Byvalki in the Smolensk region of Russia. By the age of eighteen he began studies at the Irkutsk Regional Art School, continuing there until he was 23. It was very early on when his extraordinary talent was recognized and his diploma work “At the Village Forge” received the highest award. From 1952 through 1958 Konov continued his art studies, then at the famed Repin Institute in St. Petersburg, considered one of the finest art education centers in the world. The Repin regularly turns out highly skilled and finely tuned artists who must undergo six difficult years of classical training before they graduate.

In the next decade of his career, 1960's, Konov was honoured often for his painting, particularly those in the academic and landscape styles. He entered the postgraduate course at the Repin Institute in 1963, graduating in 1966. Following his graduation, he became a noted instructor at the Repin Institute teaching academic drawing.

But, it was during 1965, while still occupied with postgraduate work, when Konov turned his attention entirely to landscapes while painting at the Academic Dacha alongside Nikolai Timkov. His quest for immediacy and inspiration brought him great respect from his colleagues, and he was considered a consummate landscape painter. Konov painted countryside scenes and floral compositions filled with dynamics and the labor process shown point-blank.

A high point in the recognition of his figurative style came between 1970 and 1972 with the creation of a portrait series commissioned by the government. Throughout the 1970's, Konov's paintings continued to acquire deeper psychological insight and his floral and landscape paintings of that period were created with a new bold stroke technique.

This outstanding painter belongs to the generation of artists who although following a realistic tradition in art was in search of innovations and developed their own trends in art. Every summer he travels to his beloved dacha in the Novgorod region of Russia to work in the open air. Konov's works are exhibited in the Tretyakov State Art Gallery, State Russian Museum, and the Art Museums of Novgorod and Novokuznetsk. His paintings are also represented in several national and international private collections.

Viktor Korovin 1936-1991



VK110 Viktor Korovin 19.00 x 27.00 Oil on Panel 1971

Born in Leningrad and talented as a child, Viktor Ivanovich Korovin was enrolled in the prestigious Serov Art College, graduating in 1960.

After graduation he studied painting at the Repin Institute in the studio of the recognized master Neprinsev from 1960 until graduation in 1963. Korovin painted monumental landscapes featuring his distinctive style under commission from the Federal government after graduating from the Repin Institute with honors.

In 1966, he was recognized as a Honored Artist of the Soviet Union. Russian art scholars acknowledge Korovin's considerable contribution to the history of Russian Impressionism.

A consummate painter of landscapes, Korovin is unique within his generation. His direct and emotional treatment of the landscape utilizing broad carved strokes of paint has earned him well-deserved comparisons to Van Gogh and Pissarro. In 1995, a group of his paintings was acquired by the Louvre in Paris.

Viktor's works are on view in the Tretyakov State Museum in Moscow and the State Russian Museum in St. Petersburg as well as a list of the most important regional museums across Russia. His art has been collected extensively in France, Germany, U.S.A., Korea, and Japan.

Nikolai Kournikov 1938 – present



NK002 October 19.75 x 24.25 Oil on Board 1967

Nikolai Kournikov is one of the most outstanding representatives of the famous and distinctive Vladimir School of landscape Painters. Nikolai Kournikov graduated from extra-mural People University of Art in 1968.

In 1980, Kournikov became a Member of the Artists Association. He is a steady participant of regional, zonal, republican, all-union and foreign exhibitions. The works of Kournikov are highly desired by collectors and can be seen in leading Russian Museums and in private collections in Russia and around the world.

Alexey Kreydun 1962-present



AK702 Wine Glass and Grapes 15.00 x 9.00 Oil on Canvas 2003

“I don’t think that someone can be an accomplished modern artist without having studied the patterns of representational arts that have gone before. A modern artist should not be content with emulating the great. He should process the creative experience of the past, and then create something that’s unmistakably his own.” And Alexey should know. This remarkable artist studied at the Academy of Art, visiting the Hermitage and the Russian Art Museums regularly. His focus was on replicating the painting techniques of the old masters and perfecting his technique. He tells us further, “I have always preferred the old masters, from whom I have learned a lot. I am in love with Durer, Vermeer, Caravaggio, Ingres, Velazquez, Rubens, Pieter Claesz, Willem Kalf, Willem Claesz Heda and many other masters.”

Born on November 27, 1962 in Alchevsk, Lugansk Region, Ukraine, Alexey Grigorjevich Kreydun attended primary and secondary schools in his home village, then went on to study at the Ludansk State Art College. There he earned a Diploma of Painting and Drawing.

Following his graduation from the State Art College the army stole Kreydun away from his art for three years before he returned home to work as a designer and, in 1990, to continue his studies. Gaining admittance to the State Institute of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture in St. Petersburg he studied hard perfecting his abilities and techniques and went on to the Academy of Art to become a student of the Restoration Department. In 1996, Kreydun graduated from the Academy of Art earning the Diploma of Oil Painting Artist – Restorer of the Second Category.

Kreydun’s diploma works were held in high regard by his professors resulting in his selection to do the restoration of the painting “Cavalrymen’s Stopping Place”, France XVIIIc. The reviewer of his diploma work on restoration was Yevgeniy Nickiforovich Gerasimov. Gerasimov was a collaborator of the State Hermitage Museum and artist-restorer of the highest category in addition to being head of the restoration group, which restored “Danaya” by Rembrandt.

Since his Academy days his ability to paint in the style of the old masters has kept him busy with commissions, specializing in paintings in the genre of the Dutch Masters and enabled him to enjoy a popular independent practice. He is also currently a Headmaster at the Artistic Industrial Academy, training young students.

Vladimir Litvinov 1948-present



VL100 Still life with Cat 35.00 x 39.00 Oil on Canvas 1997

Vladimir V. Litvinov (b. 1948, Minsk, Byelorussia) lives and works in Yaroslavl since 1956.

Vladimir graduated from the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology in 1972, PhD in mathematics, docent.

From 1982-1984 Vladimir was a student of the Yaroslavl Art Institute.

Vladimir is a member of the International Art Foundation and a member of the Union of Artists of Russia.

Since 1974 Vladimir participated in many art exhibitions, including several personal exhibitions in the Yaroslavl Art Museum (1980, 2000) and in the Exhibition Gallery of the Yaroslavl Art Union (1998).

Vladimir's works were presented on many exhibitions outside Russia (England, Germany, and Finland). The pictures were purchased by many collectors in Russia and abroad and by the Yaroslavl Art Museum.

Vladimir Litvinov is a leader of the artistic group "Parus".

Vladimir is a professor of the Yaroslavl State University (chair of Mathematical analyses)

Vladimir's chief interests in the realm of painting are landscape, portrait and still life.

Nikolai Mokrov 1926 – present



NM005 Village Home 18.50 x 25.50 Oil on Board 1970

Nikolia Mokrov was born in 1926 in the Gorki Region of Russia. He studied at the Vladimir Art School and then began a career as an art restoration expert to support himself.

In 1967 Mokrov became a member of the USSR Artists Union, were he perfected his craft of Vladimir Landscape painting, becoming one of the most popular artists to collect. His paintings have been entered into numerous regional and zonal art exhibitions, and collective shows of the Vladimir Landscape Painters in Moscow.

Vladimir Pentukh 1965-present



VP005 Northern Horizon 16.00 x 23.50 Oil on Canvas 2005

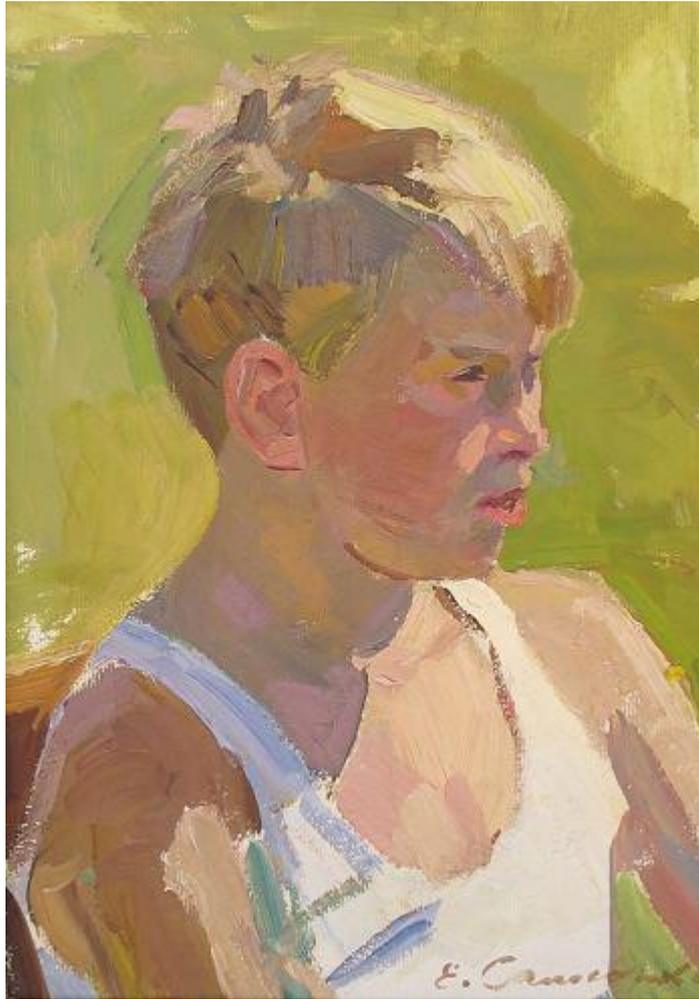
Vladimir Pentukh was born in 1965 in the old Russian town of Chernigov. In 1989 he graduated from the workshop of B. Borisov, at the Savitsky Art School in Penza.

In 1995 Pentukh graduated the department of easel painting at the Art and Design Institute in Kharkov (workshop of the People's Artist of Russia Yu. Vintayev). After graduation he started working in different genres of easel painting. His unique talent emerged while exploring landscape painting. His attraction to landscapes came from the views of Ukrainian and Russian villages lost in a time almost forgotten, and preserving their patriarchal character.

V. Pentukh has special interest in the Russian north country. His landscapes are painted with thick oil strokes which realistically sculpture the image of Northern villages. His numerous trips to the Ukraine, Crimea, Karelia, Arkhagelsk, Vladimir, Yaroslavl and Samara regions enabled Pentukh to preserve the traditions of Russian landscape painters, whilst finding his own language in conveying what is familiar and clear to every Russian person.

Pentukh has been a member of the Union of Artists of Russia since 1996. He then began teaching special subjects at the Savitsky Art School in Penza. Pentukh participates in regional, national and international exhibitions. His personal exhibitions have taken place in Moscow, Samara, Toliatti, Novokuibyshev and Penza. The works of Vladimir Pentukh can be seen in art museums in Penza, Samara, Toliatti, and in the private collections of many Russian and world-wide collectors.

Evgeny Samsonov 1926-present



ES001 Malchik 14.00 x 10.00 Oil on Board 1968

Evgeny Samsonov, born in 1926, is a famous Russian socialist painter. People's artist of the RSFSR.

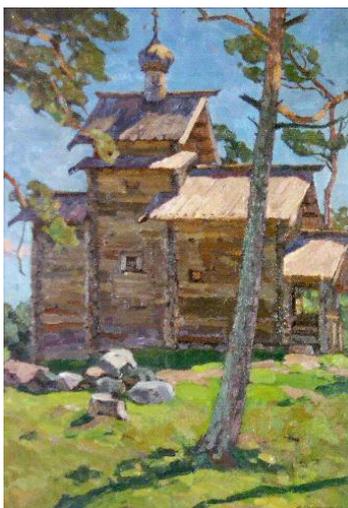
Awarded the Silver medal of the USSR Academy of Arts. Graduated from Moscow State Art Institute named after V.I. Surikov. Joined the USSR Union of Artists in 1954. He served as the Chairman of the Moscow Regional Union of Russian Artists from 1976 to 1986.

Several times he participated in all-Soviet art exhibitions, as well as republic exhibitions "The Soviet Russia".

He is a guardian of the past who can dissolve ordinary moments into extraordinary sensations, and let sincerity permeate in the face of his characters through careful composition and strong brushwork.

The artist's works are represented in the State Tretyakov Gallery, the State Russian Museum. The works of Samsonov E.I. are kept in the Tretyakov State Gallery and the Russian state Museum. Samsonov works are of a Soviet spirit.

Yuri Semenyuk 1922- present



YS003 Rural Church of Novgorod 34.00 x 26.00 Oil on Panel 1969

Yuri was born in the village of Zavalino, in the Kolchuguin District of the Vladimir Region of Russia in 1922.

In 1941, he graduated from the Yaroslavl Secondary Art School. But War loomed and immediately after graduation, just 19-years-old, Yuri joined the Soviet Army as a private. Leningrad was under siege. Conditions were nearly unbearable, hardships were incredible. Many thousands of people lost their lives defending the homeland from the Nazi occupation. This artist with the gift of beauty served on the battlefields of the Great Patriotic War (referred to as World War II in the United States). He rose to command a battalion receiving numerous combat awards and decorations and was discharged in 1946.

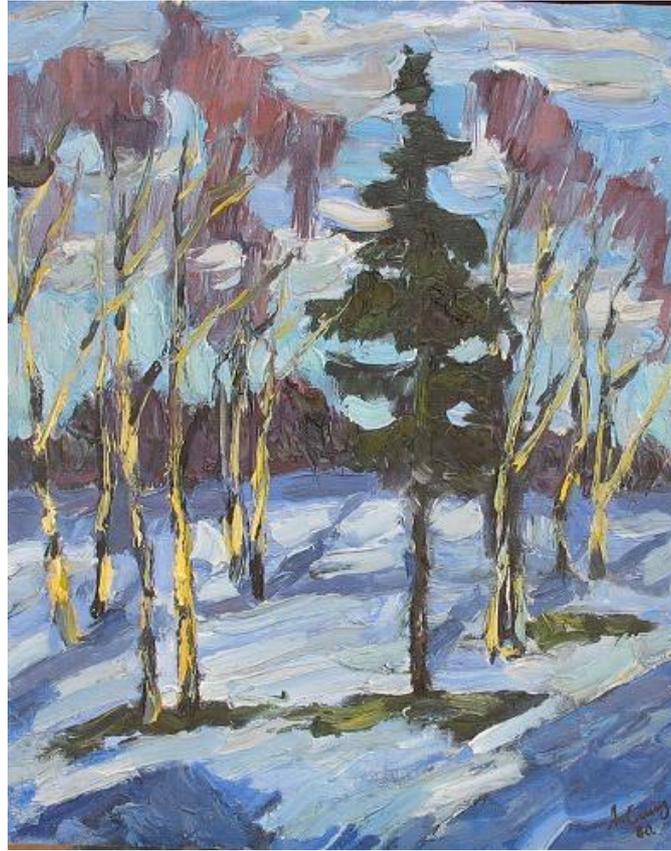
After the war, Yuri Semenyuk became a professional artist in Yaroslavl, returning to that which he loved. After 1951 was always an active participant in Municipal, Regional, National, and All-Union Exhibitions. In 1954, two of his works, Evening over the Volga River and Red Hill received high awards from the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation. As a result of these accolades, Semenyuk became a member of the USSR Union of artists in that same year.

Since then, Semenyuk has combined his creative work with active participation in the congresses of artists. He has taken leading administrative positions in the Regional (1958-1961), Republic (1960-1993) and USSR (1977-1992) Union of Artists.

Semenyuk was awarded the title of Honored Artist of the Russian Federation in 1978 and the title of People's Artist of the Russian Federation in 1982. In 1986 he was awarded a Distinguished Order of Friendship of Nations for his substantial contribution toward the development of fine arts in the USSR. His personal exhibitions were held in 1972, 1982 (Yaroslavl and Rybinsk), and 1985 (Moscow and Leningrad) and 1996 (Yuriew-Polski).

Represented in many private collections in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America, Yuri Semenyuk's landscapes, portraits, genre and historic paintings have received many honours and have been acquired by the USSR Ministry of Culture, by the State Russian Museums, State Tretyakov Gallery and other galleries throughout Russia, the United States and Western Europe.

Alfred Smirnov 1935-present



ALS007 Winter Wind 24.00 x 19.00 Oil on Board 1980

Alfred Smirnov was born in 1935 in the Vladimir region.

In 1953 he graduated from Vladimir Art vocational school. Copied the works of famous painters, went to the studies with the founders of the Vladimir school of painting, whose influence is evident in his work. He worked as a designer of exhibitions at the Exhibition of Economic Achievements. He is a member of the Artists' Union since 1980. He has defined the direction of "different styles" within the Vladimir school of landscape painting.

Vladimir's artists relied on a long tradition of art of their land. The icons, Mstera lacquer miniature, homespun rugs, quilts, glowing vermilion surface of the Vladimir – those are the origins of the colour palette on which was built their aesthetic system.

The themes of the paintings are of Vladimir villages, small district towns, bazaars, ancient streets, fields and crops. Against the background of the traditional Russian Soviet landscape paintings of the 1960s, which contrasted with mostly monochromatic colour, painting style of Vladimir's artists and their desire to represent low-key nature of the motives of central Russia with open, bright colour seemed to be daring, dropping out of the scope and stereotypes and did not fit into the formal aesthetic canon.

Alfred Smirnov is a permanent member of the regional and All-Russian Exhibition in Moscow, Nizhny Novgorod, Yaroslavl, Vladimir. Private exhibitions took place in Vladimir in 2004, works are in museums of the city of Vladimir, Nizhny Novgorod, in private and corporate collections.

Yuri Smirnov 1951-present



YS107 Summer Yard 13.00 x 19.00 Oil on Panel 1962

Yuri Smirnov was born in the Tver region of Russia. In 1951, he entered the Art College in Kalinin. During the years of 1953-54 he studied at the Academic Dacha under the recognized master V.S. Sorokin.

After serving in the Russian Army from 1954 to 1957, he resumed his passion with great vigour. From Sorokin, he learned to master various techniques and his paintings appeared with very confident brushwork and surfaces with wonderful texture.

From 1957 to 1959, Smirnov studied in the ancient town of Yaroslavl under the guidance of A. Mazitov and A. Tombasov, both of whom saw his great talent and helped him to organize his one-man exhibit in 1959 at the House of Artists in Moscow.

Thereafter, the government saw Smirnov's potential and recruited him for a number of important commissions. As his popularity grew, Smirnov received more awards and a series of one-man exhibits as well as having his works included in important group exhibitions.

A peer of many other artists from the Tver region, he became a regular visitor to the Academic Dacha where he produced many of his finest works. Starting in the late 1980's Smirnov was invited to many European countries where he held exhibitions and developed a loyal following of art collectors.

The paintings of Yuri Smirnov can be seen in many Museum collections throughout Russian including the Tretyakov State Gallery in Moscow and the State Russian Museum in St. Petersburg.

Vsevolod Solodov 1930-present



VS127 Morning Frost 20.00 x 32.00 Oil on Panel 1992

Born in the Rzhev region of Russia he was an accomplished student during the years from 1948 to 1953, participating in the final work on the famous 1905 Monument in Moscow. He was then recruited into the theatre for the development of sets and stage design. Vsevolod's artistic sense earned him an outstanding reputation in the theater world. He gained credit for the artistic design in 82 important and successful productions in Moscow, Tver and Tomsk during the 1950's. But that was not where his heart lay.

Vsevolod Solodov's true calling was landscape painting. Starting in 1960, he applied his considerable talent to painting from nature with the same vigor that had driven him in the design of stage and sets. Emerging as a very prolific painter, he was well collected throughout the world through his theatre connections. In 1966, he was given the award, Honored Artist of the Soviet Union. During his painting years he moved to Tver and became an active member of the Academic Dacha.

For many years, Solodov has been the centre of numerous one-man exhibitions in Moscow at the renowned House of Artists and in various towns throughout Russia. His works are known for their rich "northern palette" of colour and their luminous paint quality. His works are hung in the collections of the Tretyakov State gallery in Moscow and the State Russian Museum in St. Petersburg.

Today, a much-loved figure in the art community of Tver, Solodov continues to paint and sell his works to collectors from around the globe.

Nikolai Timkov 1927-1993



NTK434 Storm over the Urals 9.00 x 10.00 Oil on Panel 1968

Born in on the steppes of temperate southern Russia in 1912, Nikolai became a student at the Rostov Art College in 1927 and graduated in 1930. He then traveled to Moscow where he attended the Academy of Arts at the invitation of famous academician and painter, Isaak Brodsky. Brodsky's influence bound him to the best traditions of Russian art of the late 19th and 20th Centuries. Timkov graduated in 1939 as a professional painter and then, in accordance with the law, was immediately called up for military service with the Russian Navy, serving until 1946. His service to his country took him through World War II.

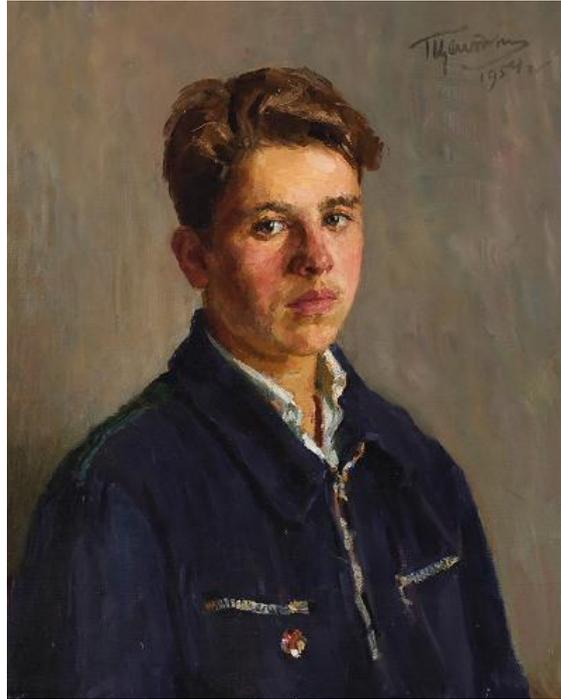
After the war Timkov's career was highlighted by several major one-man exhibitions prior to his last. The shows represented extended periods of his artistic work and became important stages of his growth both spiritually and artistically. Throughout this time, he formed his unique approach to landscape painting, which has become known as "the Timkov style", discernible through his compositional peculiarities, artistic solutions, palette and characteristic brush work.

Timkov travelled extensively through west central Russia and was particularly fond of the landscape there. His landscapes, always concrete in detail, are also generalized by symbolic meaning. His temples and monasteries tower grandly towards the heavens and are secure structures full of pride seeming to crown the beauty of the landscape. Villages and wooden huts appear to cling to Mother-Earth as if drawing warmth from her. They become blurred against the background of trees and bushes as though trying to wrap themselves in the snow. His keen eye allows us to be aware of every tree, branch and twig, whether hidden beneath the lace of snowflakes, covered in the transparent ornament of spring foliage.

At his 1993 exhibition, Nikolai Timkov, was regarded as one of the most important Russian landscape painters of the 20th Century. It signified the emergence of a classic Russian artist whose works are viewed as those of a highly distinguished and original master.

Nikolai Timkov, sometimes referred to as the “Dean of Impressionist Art”, is hung in some of the most exclusive public and private collections throughout Russian, the United States and Western Europe.

Gregori Tseitlin 1911 – 1998



GT100 Portrait of a Student 33.00 x 29.00 Oil on Canvas 1954

Born in the town of Chernevko, Gregori's artistic education consisted of graduating from the Grekov Art College in Odessa in 1932 and completing an advanced course for painters at the Moscow State Art Institute, named after Vasiliï Surikov in 1941. Among his teachers were well-known painters Igor Grabar, V. Baksheyev and L. Kramarenko.

Tseitlin's work embraces the traditions of the Russian and Soviet realistic school of painting. Although known primarily for his enthralling portraits, Tseitlin painted landscapes, still-life and ancient Russian towns and villages as well. His portraits are celebrated for their depiction of individual personalities, revealing and depicting the psychology of the sitter in natural poses. His other works portray this artist's love of life and optimistic view of the world; his luminous palette making his perceptions fresh and captivating.

Although Gregori's first 'one man' exhibition didn't occur until 1976 in Moscow, he had participated in Zonal, Republican and All-Union art exhibitions since 1939. Since that one man show, he's been represented in numerous exhibitions abroad including West Berlin, Poland and Hungary. His work has also been shown in exhibition-sales of Soviet paintings abroad in Japan, Lebanon, the United States, Holland, Spain, Finland, Greece, Germany, Canada, Poland and Belgium.

Grigori Tseitlin's paintings are hung in many Russian museum collections including the Tretyakov Art Gallery, the Kharkov Art Museum and the Kazan Museum of Fine Arts. The artist's works are also represented in many international private collections.

Nikolai Ulianov 1922 - 1990



NU011 Early Autumn 6.30 x 9.00 Oil on Board 1958

Nikolai Ulianov was born in 1922, in the village Polukhtino of Tver region, to a peasant family, and endowed with a sensitive impressionable soul of a true artist. From an early age he paid heightened attention to the beauty of his surrounding world and painted it through out his childhood.

Ulianov left for the front in WWII, as a volunteer, leaving his scholastics behind. He took part in the defense of Moscow, and then, having graduated the Tank School, fought at Kursk Arc and at Donbass. In 1943 he was badly wounded becoming physically disabled. In what could have been the darkest days of Ulianov's life, his love of art inspired him, bringing to light the true calling of being a Master Artist. This invigorated his being, evoking his early desires and propelling Ulianov's life forward.

Eight years later, in 1950, Ulianov with highest marks graduated from the Moscow City Art Studio for Veterans of the Great Patriotic War. Among his teachers were K. Yuon, I. Zakharov, K. Morozov, and G. Sretensky. A bright representative of the Russian realistic school of painting, Ulianov, lived his life tirelessly and up to the last breath endeavored to evoke inspiration through his art.

In the opinion of Ulianov, the painting should answer three questions: what, why and how. These questions are answered through the combination of technique, composition and coloring. Ulianov is the author of many wonderful landscape paintings that never leave a viewer indifferent. Landscapes and portraits by Ulianov reflect the sensitive, susceptible soul of the artist, full of high feelings and deep emotions. He traveled throughout Russia, but most of all he loved the beauty of central Russia. He had a keen eye for different states of nature and in different seasons, whether bright sun or gloomy days. Examples of his range of expression can be seen in such works as; “Native Land”, “Autumn”, “Pine Forest”, “Among Birch Trees”, “Spring Day”, and “Autumn Wind”.

Ulianov became a member of the Union of Artists of Russia in 1958; he participated in many Moscow and regional exhibitions. Due to his extraordinary modesty he didn't have a single personal exhibition in his life time. However, over 100 of his works are included in major museums (including the Tretyakov State Gallery and the State Russian Museum) and private collections.

Vasily Adrianovich Vlasov 1905-1979



VV001 VV1 17.00 x 12.00 Drawing 1955

A graphic artist. He studied at the Academy of Arts under K. Petrov-Vodkin and A. Savinov.

For a long time, Vlasov worked in publishing houses and magazines, working regularly for Detgiz Publishing House.

In 1938, he was the principal artist for *Vyborgskaya storona* (the Vyborg Side) movie.

From 1941–1944 Vlasov made posters, flyers, and other materials for the Political Administration at the Front Line in Leningrad. Beginning from 1945, he worked in the publishing houses in Leningrad in Moscow again, creating “Ballet”, “Sport”, “Partisans” series of lithographs.

Vlasov’s life was entwined with the artistic life of his time. Having been taught by Ilya Repin himself during his early career, he later became close to S. Marshak and V. Lebedev in his Detgiz period.

Vlasov always considered Lebedev his most important teacher; his interest in cinema brought him to S. Eizenshtein, G. Kozintsev, and L. Trauberg.

Vladimir Alekseevich Vasin 1918 – 2006



VV166 Rostov the Great 11.00 x 16.00 Oil on Panel 1956

Known as a painter of atmosphere, creating works that convey the particular nuance of any situation - whether genre scenes, portraits, landscapes or still life, Vladimir Vasin credited the French Impressionists and particularly August Renoir as having a profound influence on his style. Historians have noted that the Russian impressionist tradition (which was carefully suppressed in communist years) lived through Vasin's artistic work because he managed to keep his non-governmental commission work confidential.

Vladimir Vasin was born in Moscow and very quickly recognized as a gifted child artist. In 1934, at the age of 15 he was enrolled in the Moscow Art School, graduating in 1937 from the classes of Russian masters Giorgi Gorelov, Konstantine Morozov and Sergei Frolov.

Vladimir was a student of the State Institute of Cinema from 1938 until 1943, studying in the department of visual arts in the class of Fyodr Bogorodski. This different perspective on art caused him to develop his highly recognizable colour palette and brush manner that he utilized throughout the rest of his career. Vasin is recognized by scholars as being the artistic heir to the Russian master Nikolai Krimov (early 20th Century) who influenced many Russian artists with his innovative use of tonality.

In 1943, Vasin became a fellow, a docent, and a professor of painting at the State Institute of Cinema where he remained until 1993.

In 1944, Vasin became a member of the Union of Artists of Moscow, and in 1954 he was recognized as an Honoured Artist of the Soviet Union.

Vasily Volkov 1921-present



VV106 Flowers of the Forest 8.00 x 8.00 Watercolour on paper 1950-70

Vasili Volkov was born in the Rzhev region of Russia. As a young student he was observed as having great natural artistic talent and as a result was personally guided by Nikolai Borisov a master of landscape painting and a leading student of the Ilya Repin – one of the giants of Russian art history.

Through Borisov's tutelage Volkov found his style and became skilled in a variety of techniques and different formats. Before the start of World War II, in 1939, when only 18 years old he undertook a monumental commission work painted for Moscow.

But the war came all too soon. Vasili served with distinction and still painted many commissioned works for the State. In 1946, Volkov was recognized as an Honored Artist of the Soviet Union and embarked upon a series of exhibitions, monumental commission works, and awards that continued through the 1980's.

Known for his large format landscapes as well as his street scenes with a genre element featuring people moving about Volkov was, because of his versatile range of abilities, equally comfortable with miniature watercolours, which were actively collected.

His commissioned works still hang throughout Russia. Other works are included in the collection of the State Russian Museum in St. Petersburg and the Tretyakov State Gallery in Moscow

Sergei Zaitsev 1963 – present



SZ154 Fog on the River 10.00 x 14.00 Oil on Canvas

Sergei Zaitsev was born in Perm, Russia in 1963.

By 1987 Sergi left his aviation career behind for good when he enrolled as a student of Art School in Yaroslavl, his focus on traditional Russian landscape painting. He stayed at Art School until 1991.

It was during his time as an aviation technician at Gorki airport that he attended the studio of the locally renowned landscape painter, Alexei Rugov.

Zaitsev immediately adapted his own style of landscape painting featuring the luminous subtlety of the atmosphere as seen in fog, reflected light, and twilight. He gained great popularity as a painter his reputation growing along with the body of his work.

In 1996, Zaitsev was honoured with a major one-man exhibition at Moscow Central House of Artists. His reputation for romantic landscapes has won him the admiration and support of art collectors around the globe

Currently represented exclusively in Moscow there is a constant waiting list of clients eager to acquire his latest works. Today Sergei Zaitsev lives and works in the ancient town of Yaroslavl.