

Revealing women's souls

Alena Adamchyk's *Bielaruski. Women of Europe* to become bibliographic rarity

By Yelena Prusova

The Director of the National Library of Belarus, Roman Motulsky, believes that the five volume edition will soon join the museum of rare books and is convinced that it will enjoy popularity among readers.

"I didn't search for differences between Belarusian and European women during my work, since Belarusians are European women already," notes Alena. "I've striven to reflect the shared ambitions, hopes and dreams of all women. I've depicted our lives clearly, via the language of photography."

One of the characters of the book is honoured master of sports, calisthenics star and Olympic champion Marina Lobach. She admits that this was her first experience of participating in such a project. She is grateful to Ms. Adamchyk for helping us view women with new eyes. "Women can be charming, interesting and mysterious when a true master takes their photograph," smiles Ms. Lobach.

Alena Adamchyk is a famous Belarusian photographer and a master of creating lively portraits. Her first exhibition — *Nude Veritas* — was organised in 1992, in Warsaw. Later, her works went on show all over Europe. Prestigious Vilnius gallery Vartai has named Alena the



Alena Adamchyk's book and exhibition of photography hosted by National Library

first photographer who's revealed colour in photo art. She has also been named the best colour photographer in the USSR.

In 2004, Alena began working on her first edition of *Bielaruski*, featuring our countrywomen. Its presentation in Vilnius and Belarusian Logoisk was a success.

Later, the project transformed into *Women of Europe*, conquering Europe. After the presentation of her project in Monaco, Alena was inspired to create another edition, entitled *Women of Monaco*. It features globally known women, such as Shirley Bassey, Princess Camilla of Bourbon, Monika Bacardi and

Sophia al Rashid. Princess Caroline of Hanover has written the opening foreword for the book.

Last year, Ms. Adamchyk released her fifth album, featuring famous women of Belarus who live not only in Belarus but abroad. *Bielaruski. Women of Europe* contains 12 lively portraits.

Motol warmly welcomes guests in its own style

Motol, in the Brest region's Ivanovo district, is quite small, having only about 5,000 residents. However, it's unique in Belarus, boasting a mix of Belarusian, Polish, Italian, Latvian and Jewish cultures. Legend states that Queen Bona lived in Motol, while the first president of Israel, Chaim Weizmann, was born there. Residents have preserved their own traditions, language and links with their homelands — from as far afield as Argentina and Australia

By Vladimir Efimov

Many guests arrive in Motol to celebrate Christmas and the New Year, enjoying folk traditions with relatives. The Director of the Motol Historical-Folklore Museum, Olga Matsukevich, met us on the eve of the holidays, to explain the culinary traditions of Motol residents. Of course, these are known countrywide — owing to the *Motol Delicacies Festival*. "I'll tell you which dishes were cooked for Kolyady," Olga begins, whetting our appetite. "As a fast precedes this folk holiday, sixteen dishes are cooked, including mushroom kvass, alongside fried, steamed, boiled and

salt-cured fish, and sour cabbage with flax oil. On the morning after the fast, sausages and other meat products are prepared, following traditional recipes. Of course, mead always accompanies the holiday, made from germinated grain. Tourists absolutely love it."

Motol's residents pass on their tasty recipes from one generation to the next. The museum is home to a diploma given to a local resident — Mukha — for his achievements in sausage making, in the 1930s. His business is now run by his grandchildren. There are three such sausage making enterprises in Motol today, while three bakeries make their own

bread, buns (called short-cakes locally) and pies, all to unique recipes. According to Ms. Matsukevich, every Motol home knows how to make its own bread, sausages and cheese.

Tables are laid with wonderful linen tablecloths before dishes are served, with guests welcomed with a round loaf, served on an embroidered linen rushnik cloth. The fabric is even woven locally, being delicate, and semi-transparent, like silk. Some local people still have ancient knitting looms at home but this skill is gradually disappearing. Priceless hand-made pieces are now only taken carefully from old



Hospitable Motol residents known for their talents

grandparents' trunks for the most important holidays.

Hand-made jackets decorated with bright embroidery and traditional patterns are similarly precious and saved for special occasions. In days gone by, 12-13 craftsmen worked in Motol; in summer, they prepared sheep skins, ready for them to be sewn into winter garments for villagers and guests. Some Motol-born Belarusians, returning to the village from Argentina, were extremely impressed by

these local winter clothes. Of course, it's not easy for local craftsmen to compete with factories, so hand-made leather jackets are now only seen at the local museum or worn by actors in the Motol Neighbours Folk Theatre. The famous local hand-made shoes are so strong that many local families wear them.

Certainly, Motol is full of skilled people, able to make good quality clothes and shoes, cook delicious dishes and organise a joyful feast.

Future naturally born from the past

By Tatiana Pastushenko

Talents of Belarus exhibition showcases young artists' works, created over last 15 years

Minsk's University of Culture Art Gallery is showcasing the best pieces created by young artists, sculptors and photographers: pupils of children's art schools, secondary special educational establishments specialising in art studies, and those from the Belarusian State Academy of Arts and Belarusian Union of Artists. All the pieces were created by those under the age of 31 who have won the *Star Rises Above Belarus* republican contest, the 6th Open Youth Delphic Games (CIS member states) and international art contests.

The exhibition opens doors for new talents and shows the development of those chosen for sponsorship by the Special Fund of the President of the Republic of Belarus for Support of the Talented Youth.

Official capital gains acquaintance with cultural capital's achievements

By Diana Kurilo

Over 50 exhibitions, concerts, artistic meetings and festivals held in Polotsk as part of Cultural Capital 2010 campaign

In early 2010, the Culture Ministry launched its *Cultural Capital of Belarus* campaign, aimed at developing and enriching regional cultural life, while promoting initiatives to support national culture. The attention of public and tourists was set to be attracted.

The campaign has allowed Polotsk residents and ancient town guests to gain acquaintance with Belarusian cultural achievements and see the country's artistic teams. In 2010, Polotsk saw performances from *Khoroshki* dance company, alongside the bands *Classic-Avantgarde* and *Pesnyary*. The local Art Gallery housed an exhibition of lithography by Napoleon Orda (from the Belarusian National History Museum's archive), in addition to paintings by Ivan Khrutsky, dedicated to his 200th anniversary. Exhibitions by Belarusian and foreign modern artists took place.

In mid-January 2011, 400 amateur artists and craftsmen are to arrive in Minsk from Polotsk to show their creative achievements. Meanwhile, the 2011 Belarusian cultural capital will be announced at a gala-concert of Polotsk artists.