

Young tend to experiment while masters often prefer to contemplate

Exhibition at Minsk's Palace of Arts Gallery shows latest passionate innovations in art

By Victor Mikhailov

The young never do anything by half, which is naturally reflected in art and is obvious at the *Molodezhnaya-2011* (Youth) Republican Art Exhibition. Every year, the Belarusian Union of Artists organises exhibitions to show us the unique face of modern fine art; the shows are already a tradition among up and coming artists. They allow young people the chance to shine; there's no doubt that the events are vital to the country's cultural life.

Artists having been encouraged to push the boundaries of convention, exploring 'free art'; their techniques, forms, composition, colour palettes, genre and theme are diverse. The young artists' desire to experiment is clear. Naturally, the freedom to create means little unless

you have something burning to convey and the skills with which to do so. Malevich, for example, was a modernist painter and is surely an inspiration to many contemporary artists. His *Black Square* is known to all. He was a true master of pictorial arts, also known as a wonderful portrait painter and a creator of realistic plots. In other words, he proved himself to be a highly professional and well trained artist. His artistic evolution and pioneer work revealed his expressive, bright talent.

The aspirations of modern youth to experiment — easily and without a backward glance — strike a warning note. Naturally, original thinking always arouses interest. However, an artist is unlikely to become established without a basic academic education and a school of

artistry. Malevich undertook long years of study, work and artistic thinking before painting his *Black Square*. Meanwhile, younger artists' lack of expressiveness can make us doubt that their imagination is taking flight: an essential quality in any true artist.

Turning to the idea of 'maximalism' in art, young people certainly need to assert themselves. They polish their mastery over time, with their efforts along the way acting as a path of progression. The current exhibition is rather like a 'farewell' to their novice selves. The works clearly show each artist searching within themselves, with assertion of self at the heart of each creation. However, I must admit that those depicting realistic images touch the heart more effectively, being drawn from life; their characters are our contemporaries



Young artists express themselves at exhibition of artistic 'maximalism'

and ring true.

The gallery is simultaneously hosting another exhibition, on its second floor: dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the Belarusian Union of Artists' Pogonya (Pursuit) Artistic Association. It's easy to calculate that this association is as old as sovereign Belarus; its biography matches the biography of our country. The artists whose works are on show are no novices, and are just as diverse as their younger counterparts. Their attention

to the past is evident and the works are full of Belarusian natural landscapes. Modern traces are also present, while some authors are even rather avant-garde. No doubt, art is interesting when it is diverse. The exhibition stands out for its authors being philosophical, connecting the past to the present.

Artistic Pogonya unites about 70 painters, graphic artists, sculptors and masters of decorative-and-applied arts. Most are well known domes-

tically and abroad. Pieces by Georgy Skripnichenko, Yegor Batoryonok and Valentina Sventokhovskaya are particularly attractive, boasting artistic sincerity. The artists' desire to remain Belarusian is clear; they show their links to their homeland, while their works prove their loyalty to the traditions which pass from one generation to the next. Their inspiration carries them forward, reflecting the beauty of their native land and its residents.

Unique tableware exhibited

White Gold of Herend — Porcelain for Kings exhibition is first step in co-operation between Belarusian and Hungarian museums



Exhibition showcases unique beauty of porcelain

By Yekaterina Sviridova

The exhibition at the National Art Museum includes around 130 porcelain items of the highest quality, manufactured by Herend Porcelain Manufactory. Visitors have an amazing opportunity to assess the mastery of Hungarian porcelain artists, viewing wares supplied to famous royal courts.

The unique decorative-

and-applied art of Hungary includes vases and candlesticks, in addition to tea, coffee and dinner sets with the 'Rothschild Birds' pattern. The latter is connected with the Hungarian family of Rothschild, who ordered dinner sets depicting 12 birds from Herend back in the mid-19th century. The pattern is associated with a legend stating that Baroness Rothschild found her lost necklace on a

tree branch surrounded by some birds. The pattern is also being known for being chosen by the late Princess Diana for its usage as her wedding dinner set.

For over 185 years, Herend goods have been used by such eminent personages as Russian emperors Alexander II and Nikolay II, German Emperor Wilhelm I, the royal families of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland and of Belgium, Japan's Emperor, the sultans of Brunei and Oman, Thailand's King and members of most royal families in the Habsburg Dynasty. The famous company's porcelain has also been owned by the barons Rothschild and the Princely Family of Liechtenstein, in addition to other prominent cultural figures.

"In March, Hungary traditionally celebrates the anniversary of the 1848-1849

revolution, so this date inspired us to create an exhibition," noted the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Hungary to Belarus, H.E. Mr. Ferenc Kontra, at the solemn opening at the National Art Museum of Belarus. "In 2011, the Herend factory is also celebrating the 185th anniversary of its foundation, so it was decided to showcase this unique tableware at an exhibition."

The Director of the National Art Museum, Vladimir Prokoptsov, believes that the exhibition will inspire further collaboration between our two states' museums. "We plan to continue our interaction with the Hungarian Embassy to Minsk while implementing new projects between the museums of our countries. We hope that Belarusian exhibits will also go on display in Hungary," admits Mr. Prokoptsov.

Fairly favourable running order



Anastasia Vinnikova

By Irina Sviridenko

Anastasia Vinnikova to perform 16th at Eurovision-2011

German Düsseldorf has hosted the annual Head of Delegation meeting for countries taking part in *Eurovision-2011*, with songs announced for this prestigious musical competition.

Belarus is to be represented by Anastasia Vinnikova, singing *I Love Belarus*, which has been composed by Yevgeny Oleinik and Svetlana Geraskova (known under the pseudonym of Gera). The version selected

for the contest is the third song choice to date. Initially, a focus group from the country's largest TV channels chose Anastasia's *Born in Bielorrussia* as the winner of the national selection round, written by Yevgeny Oleinik and Victor Rudenko. The song was changed, given the title *I am Belarusian*, with Svetlana Geraskova as co-author to Mr. Oleinik. However, as the musical material was publicly performed before September 1st, 2010 (forbidden by *Eurovision* rules), a new composition was needed. This was presented in Düsseldorf, alongside a whole package of documents needed for the application.

Düsseldorf has chosen the running order for the *Eurovision* semi-finals, with Anastasia Vinnikova performing 16th in the second semi-finals, to be held on May 12th.