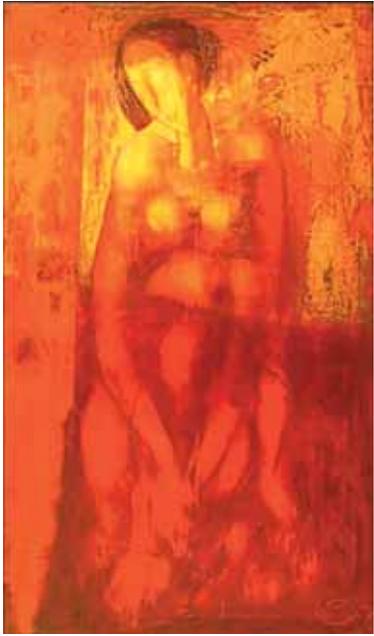


Creativity is constant

Painter Sergey Timokhov confirms his passion for art, despite lack of free time

By Victor Mikhailov



Images are full of mystery

Mr. Timokhov has been elected as Deputy Chairman of the Belarusian Artists Union (for the next four years) for the second time. There is much to do: organising exhibitions, as well as solving various household issues and domestic problems of Union members. In a word, he has almost no time to indulge his own creativity, yet he does make time. His *Night's Charms* personal exhibition at the National Art Museum is proof of his devotion to art.

On seeing the show, the artist's skill becomes clear — with brush or pencil. Mr. Timokhov tends to favour the medium of paint, although his artistic manner is individual and original in both.

Mr. Timokhov plays with the

abstract, while founding his themes in reality. His synthesis of line and colour is unique and he loves to experiment with texture and tone, searching for contrasts. He revels in a variety of techniques and themes but primarily addresses paganism, pondering the roots of Belarusian culture and the nature of human existence, exploring sources of absolute beauty. He focuses on the harmonious interrelation of people and the natural elements of Water, Earth, Fire and Air.

Mr. Timokhov has been depicting nudes for the last decade — one of the most ancient themes in world art. He may be the first Belarusian to investigate it so thoroughly and seriously, although he uses nudes to continue his pagan theme. He adds female images to his pagan inspired works, giving them a completely new perception and arousing associations with folk motifs. We cannot but recall the ancient pagan holidays of the Sun and Fertility. He shows Woman as the founding force in nature but continues his search for the ultimate truth; we can surely expect plenty of new discoveries.

Night's Charms is a wonderful series of graphical works, accentuating the beauty of the female form — full of charm. He aspires to penetrate deep into the female soul, reflecting its mood and feelings. We return to the moment of the world's creation and to the time when Woman appeared on the Earth.

Some of his works have been created in shades of orange and red, symbolising Life, Fire and Warmth:



Sergey Timokhov ready to comment on his artistic style

depicted as sunsets, dusk, nightfall and the smooth arrival of night.

Blue tones offer a completely different impression, with the painter identifying Woman with the Universe and Space. Female images are set against a background of endless starry skies and moonlit nights full of mystery and dreaminess. We clearly see the motifs of Kupalle night, speculations about Eternity and an aspiration to merge with the heart of existence.



Creativity is always individual

Mr. Timokhov's graphical works from the *Night's Charms* series are unusual in aspiring to unite two types of art: painting and graphical art. He achieves such expressiveness and integrity, via simple expressive lines. In some of his works, he 'deliberately' allows himself slightly 'careless' shading and hatching. Alongside black-and-white works in ink, he creates those combining oil and

using pencil, oil and ink.

In Mr. Timokhov's works, the female image is always innocent and pure, filled with absolute beauty and purity. It is impossible to remain indifferent, as these figures enchant us with their mystery and mystic, enigmatic beauty.

Mr. Timokhov's works are currently kept at the National Art Museum of Belarus and at the Modern Fine Arts Museum in Minsk, in the Belarusian Union of Artists' art funds and those of the Russian Culture Ministry, as well as at the Marc Chagall Museum in Vitebsk, at Polotsk's Art Museum, at the Galeria Sztuki Katarzyny Napiorkowskiej in Warsaw and at the Walentowski Galerien in Dresden. They also grace private collections in Belarus and abroad.

The MT reference:

Sergey Timokhov was born in 1960 in the village of Krotov in the Gomel Region. In 1979, he graduated from Minsk's Art School and, in 1984, from the Belarusian State Theatre and Art Institute (Monumental Art Chair). He has created easel paintings, monumental paintings and graphic art. From 1986 to 1998, he resided in Polotsk and has lived and worked in Minsk since 1999. He is a member of the Belarusian Union of Artists.

Expressiveness of images doesn't detract from their mystery

By Tatiana Shurova

Over 30 Tibetan icons on show at Gomel's Palace and Park Estate

The exhibition showcases Tibetan icons from Bryansk's Local History Museum, as well as items depicting the traditions of Buddhist culture, taken from the private collection of Gomel's photo journalist and traveller Yuri Biryukov. Some artefacts are also on display from Gomel's Palace and Park Estate museum.

Tibetan icons are known as Thangka (from 'thang' — space and 'ka' — to fill in). They appeared in ancient times, when icons were created on canvas or silk, coated with a mixture of chalk and glue beforehand. Their size could vary from several square centimetres to several hundred square metres and are impressive in their expressiveness, clear lines and intense colours. An artist might work for a whole year to create a single icon.

At first sight, Thangka plots are simple, yet each detail is symbolic and meaningful, making us ponder life's values and treasures. It was believed that the creator of each icon communicated directly with a deity; meanwhile, those viewing it become part of the wonderful and mysterious world of Tibet.

New interpretation of Frantsisk Skorina

By Tatiana Pastukhova

Unified electronic bibliography to be developed countrywide within next five years

The *Culture of Belarus* database is envisaged by a state programme, requiring \$300,000 from the state budget. Around Br1bn is to be directed to organising a unified electronic catalogue of Belarusian libraries.

The 'Frantsisk Skorina — Belarusian and Eastern Slavonic First Printer' electronic library is to be simultaneously developed. During business trips to Russia, Ukraine, Slovenia, Germany, Denmark and other countries, specialists will study and digitise Skorina's editions, to be later included into the electronic library. The programme envisages the creation of facsimile editions by the outstanding printing pioneer.

A 'Radziviliana' electronic library is also on the agenda, with separate editions digitised and the most precious electronic copies of books being bought from abroad. Moreover, at least a dozen copies of books are to be made, for Nesvizh's National History and Culture Museum-Reserve.

National History Museum's collection expanded with sensational donation

Artis Magnae Artilleriae (Great Art of Artillery), by prominent Belarusian engineer Kazimir Semenovitch, donated to National History Museum

By Tatiana Pastukhova

The 1730 tract, printed in Frankfurt am Main (Germany), has been donated by an anonymous benefactor who acquired it from an antiquarian book shop in Vienna, with the assistance of Belarusian residents living there.

The first part of the edition was written by Kazimir Semenovitch himself, while the second was prepared by German artilleryist and captain Daniel Elrich, from records and notes left by the famous Belarusian engineer. The book is decorated with several engravings, made by the German author from Mr. Semenovitch's drawings.

"This tract sums up the results of engineering investigations. Moreover, the book includes data on Kazimir Semenovitch's own discoveries, as well as on his knowledge and experience of engineer-

ing. It is the first of its kind," notes Yuri Lavrik, a leading research officer from the museum. He explains that, after the book was first released, it acquired great popularity. Later, it was re-published many times — in French, German, English and other languages all over the world.

Mr. Lavrik notes that special conditions have been created at the National History Museum to store the unique edition: 18 degrees Celsius above zero and humidity at 50-55 percent.

The first edition of *Great Art of Artillery* appeared in Amsterdam in 1650, where Mr. Semenovitch substantiated and described in drawings and calculations the idea of a multi-stage rocket. This was the prototype of our contemporary rocket, which launches satellites and space aircraft into orbit today. Mr. Semenovitch also



Кніга Казіміра Семеновіча «Вялікае мастацтва артылерыі» (Амстэрдам, 1650 г.) была пераўвядзеная ў Англіі, Францыі, Нямеччыне.

invented a delta wing, without which it's impossible to imagine a contemporary supersonic fighter.

The Belarusian was among the first to develop 'smart weapons', with a separate section of the tract describing a universal optomechanical target and guidance system for weaponry and rockets. Additionally, Mr. Semenovitch

invented a volley fire rocket system — as used for the famous 'Katyusha' missile launcher in WWII.

Remarkably, Newton, Peter I and Napoleon studied Kazimir Semenovitch's book, while Tsiolkovsky — the founding father of Russian cosmonautics — directly referred to Mr. Semenovitch in his works.