



Golden performance

Young Konstantin Geronik, with the Belarusian Bolshoi Theatre ballet company, brings home gold medal from 4th Beijing International Ballet and Choreography Competition

In the first round of the contest, Konstantin charmed the jury and critics with his brilliant performance of variations from *Le Corsaire* and *The Flame of Paris*. In the second round, he danced *Inspiration* — a contemporary work by Yevgeny Chernov. In the third, he demonstrated virtuoso mastery of classical techniques, performing variations from *La Sylphide* and *Don Quixote*.

Konstantin's performance received high praise from the international jury, which comprised the most famous artistes and stage managers. Among them were Xiao Suhua (China), Evelyn Terry (Germany), Gilibert Mayer (France), Gregor Hatala (Austria) and Ruslan Pronin (Russia). The jury was headed by prominent American choreographer and ballet master Bruce Marks.

The competition in Beijing brought together over 70 dancers from around the world.

Internal energy more important than shape or appearance

Unique exhibition Along Belarusian-Chinese Border opens at Brama Gallery in Minsk

About 40 works by Belarusian State Academy of Arts student Marina Elyashevich reveal the School of Chinese Wǔ Xíng Painting (painted in mineral colours on Chinese paper). Marina has only one year experience of this genre but is already receiving praise. She was taught by Moscow masters, who learnt from famous Chinese artists.

The Wǔ Xíng system originates from ancient Taoist teachers, who promoted an understanding of the world as having five energy elements (wood, fire, earth, metal and water). Each Wǔ Xíng painting portrays one of these primary elements, reflecting an object's energy rather than its shape or appearance. However, if created well, the object should be instantly recognisable.

Only genuine things

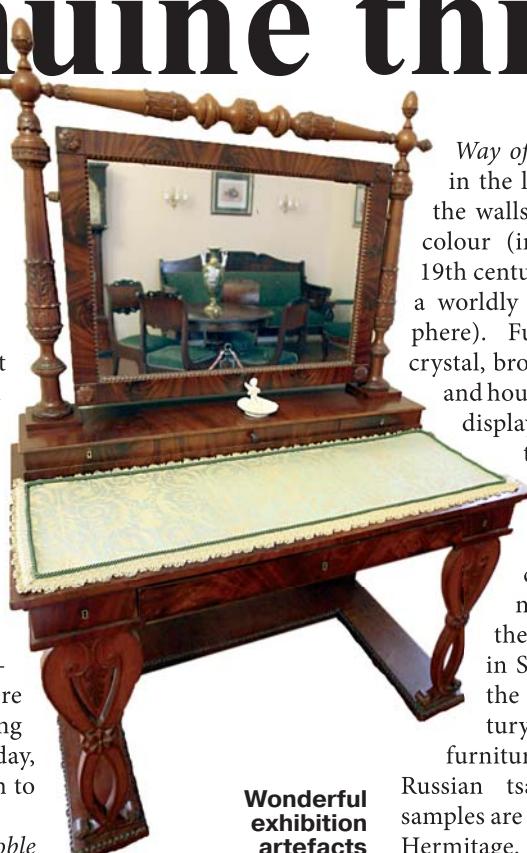
Dive into past age in historic centre of capital

By Irina Melova

The *Provincial Minsk: Noble Way of Life* exhibition has opened in an elegant 18th century building — the Art Gallery of People's Artist of the BSSR and USSR Mikhail Savitsky. Vitaly Zhukov has managed to reconstruct those days for the first time, introducing a unique private collection of 120 original works by European and Russian masters. No archival data exists, so he has relied on his perception and knowledge of imagery. The history of the build-

ing is interesting too, dating from 1775, when it belonged to Count Michał Przeździecki — a Polish aristocrat. It was passed to a pharmacist called Stankevich, and then a philanthropist: Yuri Kobylinsky. The fourth owner of the estate was Leopold Delpatse and, after the revolution of 1917, administrative services were located inside, including military enlistment. Today, it houses a museum open to the public.

Provincial Minsk: Noble



Wonderful exhibition artefacts

Way of Life is on show in the largest hall, with the walls painted a coral colour (in vogue in the 19th century and denoting a worldly boudoir atmosphere). Furniture, china, crystal, bronze, furnishings and household goods are displayed, showing the taste and spirit of former owners. The pride of the collection is furniture made by the Gambs brother in St. Petersburg, in the mid-19th century (they made furniture even for the Russian tsars). Currently, samples are on display in the Hermitage.

Preparing for the exhibition in Minsk, an old rug was found, so dirty that its design was a mystery. However, it turned out to be a masterpiece by Italian Guido Reni: *The Chariot of Aurora*, created in 1614.

It is interesting to know how the nobility entertained their friends in ancient times. We can imagine chatting in the salon, with music and poetry performed and everything in harmony. The one thing missing from the exhibition room is portraits of the owners. Alas, none exist of the Delpatse couple. "Only genuine things are on show and, since we lack genuine portraits, those places are blank," notes Mr. Zhukov.

Beauties to gather in Ordos, Mongolia

Miss Belarus-2012 Yulia Skalkovich to compete for title of 'Miss World'

By Yekaterina Medvedskaya

Although the final of the international beauty contest *Miss World-2012* isn't scheduled until August 18th (in Ordos, Inner Mongolia) the Belarusian beauty travelled there on July 18th, to begin a full events programme, alongside the other 121 contestants. Excursions and semi-final selections are planned, as well as press-conferences, state receptions, photo sessions and, of course, rehearsals. The titles of 'Miss Beach', 'Miss Sport', 'Miss Talent', 'Miss Top Model' and 'Miss Charity' are to be given, each one securing a place in the semi-final.

For the first time, a new nomination is appearing: 'Miss Multimedia'. Each girl is to create an Internet blog



Yulia Skalkovich has every chance of victory

for a month, uploading pictures and a video, writing her thoughts and answering fans'

questions to reveal her personality. Those visiting the girls' sites can then vote for

their favourites on the official site of the *Miss World* contest: www.missworld.com. The

audience vote will determine the winner.

Yulia Skalkovich, 20, has prepared a national dance for the creative contest, with her costume created by famous Belarusian designers. Despite her luggage exceeding the 50kg limit for travel, she has managed to pack souvenirs for the organisers of the contest: beautifully illustrated books about Belarus. Ms. Skalkovich is studying to become an architect, and is currently a fourth-year student at Brest State Technical University.

We'll soon discover the jury's opinion of the beautiful Belarusian contestant and local viewers will be able to watch the contest via ONT channel. Over a billion TV viewers around the world are expected to tune in for the final of the contest.