



Teacher always generous to his pupils

Recent exhibition at National Art Museum confirms Sergey Katkov as bright and undoubtedly expressive example of mid-20th century Belarusian fine arts

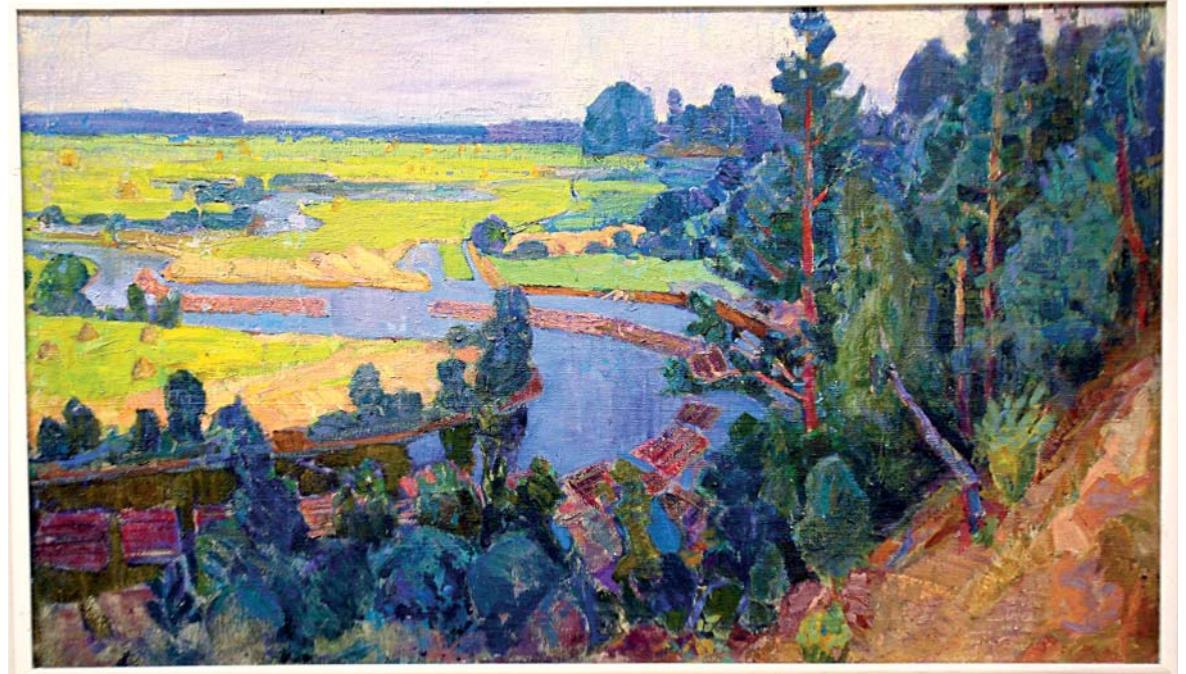
By Victor Mikhailov

The recent exhibition, devoted to the work of talented painter Sergey Katkov, was full of worthy exhibits. Among them were wonderful landscapes, city silhouettes and amazingly colourful and diverse plots. The show attracted many of Mr. Katkov's friends and pupils.

As a teacher, Sergey Katkov followed landscape realistic traditions. He connected his life with Minsk, becoming a teacher of several generations of Belarusian artists. He fought in WWII and helped dozens of young people find their path via Minsk's Palace of Pioneers and Schoolchildren, Minsk's Art School and the Republican Music and Fine Art Boarding School. Among them were prominent figures of Belaru-

sian art: people's artists Mai Dantsig, Vladimir Stelmashonok and Vladimir Tovstik and Honoured Figures of Arts Vasily Sumarev, Ninel Schastnaya, Zoya Litvinova and Svetlana Katkova.

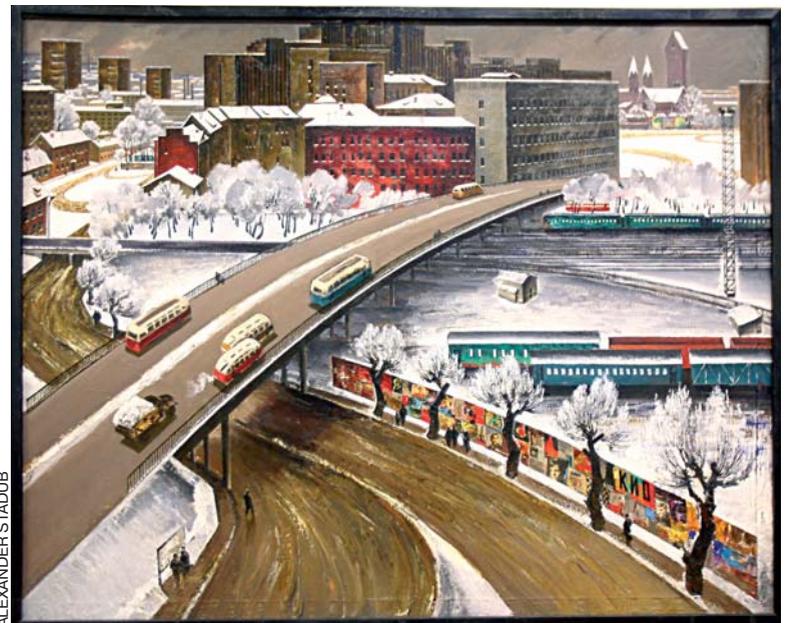
Sergey Katkov was an exceptional, unique figure of 20th century Belarusian art, inspiring others with his lively innovation. He banished dogma and stagnant obstacles in his courageous experimentation, unafraid of difficulties. Having participated in the war, he created several series of this theme, including *On the Way to Königsberg* and *Border of Eastern Prussia and Manchuria*. He valued his peaceful life, drawing on this to offer his own reflections, while also finding inspiration from innovative late 19th century French painting. He trans-



Sergey Katkov was an outstanding master of city and rural landscapes, grand panoramas and smaller detailed pieces. The charming banks of rivers and lakes, and suburban architecture were both brought to life in his works.

ferred its achievements into the creation of emotional Belarusian landscapes, depicting the diverse corners of our land in his own way. He was an eminent master of both city and country landscapes, on a small and large scale, drawing rivers and lakes as well as city districts. His works retain the living pulse of the 1950-1970s.

During the mature period of his work, he created his best large scale works devoted to the topic of harvest and fertility. The course of time has revealed the great heritage left by this modest, industrious and tal-



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ented artist, whose creative mood fascinates audiences even now.

The exhibition showcases 80 works from Belarus' National Art Museum, including those by the artist's daughter, Svetlana Katkova, and by Mr. Katkov's pupils — from private collections. Children's pictures painted by Mr. Katkov's pupils

in the 1960s, at Minsk's Palace of Pioneers and Schoolchildren, occupy a special place at the show. These show the youngsters' unique view of the world, while demonstrating the teaching methods of Mr. Katkov (who headed the studio for some time). Each bears the mark of his inspiration and experience.



Svetlana Agarval to sing in Hindi

Belarusian singer of Indian songs to represent India at the 8th International TV Song Contest Eastern Bazaar, in Yalta

It's no accident that Svetlana Agarval will represent India at the *Eastern Bazaar*; she's

married to an Indian citizen, so is familiar with its culture and traditions, although this international family lives in Belarus.

Svetlana had no reservations about representing India, choosing three songs in Hindi which are well-loved in India; some are

even known in our country. Meanwhile, Sasha Nemo and Anastasia Sheverenko will represent Belarus at the 8th International *Eastern Bazaar* TV Song Contest. A year ago, the Belarusian trio *Angels* (comprising three of the four members of the band 3+2, who represented

Belarus at *Eurovision-2010*) took second place at the event.

The event aims to support talent in the field of popular music, developing adversarial spirit and promoting modern pop music from East and West.

In 2012, Afghanistan,

Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Russia, Uzbekistan, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Latvia, India, Slovakia, Macedonia, the Czech Republic, Italy and other countries will be taking part. Every year, in Yalta, professionals from 30 countries show their vocal skills.