



Belarusian Folk Icon exhibition attracts attention of residents of Slovak town Banska Bystrica

Norwegian surf from Klimovichi town

By Darya Sergeeva

Landscapes of Russia and Belarus exhibition opens at Museum of History and Culture, in Orsha District

The canvases by the two painter friends begin in Klimovichi's Regional Museum before heading to Krichev, Kostyukovichi, Mogilev and Vitebsk. The works will then be shown in Russia.

Orsha's Town Art Gallery (named after V. Gromyko) has on show about 80 pictures by Russian painter Vladimir Berdnikov and by famous Klimovichi painter Leonid Yachnev, alongside pieces made from coloured and plain glass and crystal: vases for flowers and fruit, wineglasses and dishes.

Vladimir Berdnikov is an Honoured Artist of Russia, and a member of the Union of Artists and of the Union of Designers, with works kept in the Smolensk and Roslavl museums, as well as at a gallery in New York, and in private collections in Russia, Germany, Japan and the USA.

Leonid Yachnev comes from Klimovichi and has had six personal exhibitions. He began painting seriously in 1993 and enjoyed an exhibition in Norwegian Halden in 2003, featuring Norwegian themed works: *Nameless Island*, *Oceanfront*, and *Norwegian Surf*. His pictures are kept in private and state collections in Belarus, Russia, Poland, Israel, Australia, Germany, France, Canada, Belgium and the USA.

'Storks' under domes of Ryazan Kremlin

Historical and cultural heritage of South-East of Belarus to be showcased by Gomel Palace and Park Estate at exhibitions in Slovakia and Russia

The Museum of the Slovak National Uprising (SNP) in Banska Bystrica is to host an exhibition of Belarusian artefacts and icons: *Belarusian Folk Icon*. These come from the Gomel Palace and Park Estate, featuring 87 items, includ-

ing rushniks, handwritten books and icons painted by Polesie residents.

"We regularly hold exhibitions abroad, since these enjoy popularity. In 2012, we successfully arranged an exhibition of watches in

Kaliningrad from the Rumyantsev-Paskevich Museum collections and, in 2011, we organised an exhibition in Poland. We agreed to arrange the exhibition in Slovakia last October and managed to organise it in Banska Bystrica within a short

period of time," notes Director Andrey Gorbachev. The show will run until September 2nd.

Another major international exhibition is soon being launched in Ryazan, Russia: an ethnographic exhibition entitled *Storks*.

Art knows no borders

National Library of Belarus hosts Lithuanian design contest exhibition: *Geras Dizainas*



In the exhibit hall

The Ambassador of Lithuania to Belarus, H.E. Mr. Evaldas Ignatavičius, notes that the idea of organising an exhibition appeared after Lithuania hosted Design Week, featuring wonderful works by Belarusian masters. He adds that, when Belarusians and Lithuanians speak about art and new technologies, any border between our two states disappears, as is proven by the close co-operation of Lithuanian and Belarusian artists.

"The Lithuanian Design Forum was held for the second year in a row, with support from the Culture Ministry of Lithuania. This year, the event brought together over 80 works," notes Design Forum Director Vytautas Gurevičius. "The Belarusian exhibition features the best pieces of the *Geras Dizainas* National Contest. Works were judged by an international jury before they arrived in Minsk. This year, the Chairman of the Belarusian Union of Designers, Dmitry Sursky, was invited onto the jury, which lacked even a single Lithuanian expert, to ensure objectivity."

Mr. Gurevičius especially noted that Lithuania plans to release production of all the winning exhibits. One is a luxurious blue chair, created for one of the central offices in Vilnius. The same design is also being made for the President of the Lithuanian Republic, Dalia Grybauskaitė, and for the Federal Chancellor, Angela Merkel.

Geras Dizainas (Good Design) is an opportunity for young designers, as well as professional masters, to showcase their talent. The contest invites design across various spheres: industrial and graphic, clothes and interiors. The best 15 pieces are chosen, with prizes and diplomas awarded — all equal in importance.

Americans viewers watch Belarusian film-drama

Sergey Loznitsa's *In the Fog* successfully gets US screenings



Screen shot from *In the Fog*

"In the first two days of being screened, the film has been rated 3.5 out of 5 on average by the public: not a bad result. It's a huge cultural achievement for Belarusian cinema to be screened in America. We're now waiting to hear how much money has been taken at the box office," notes the Director General of the Belarusfilm National Film Studio, Oleg Silvanovich.

The film is being shown in three cinemas in Manhattan, provoking interest not only from audiences but the press. *The New York Times* has devoted a major article to the psychological drama, directed by Belarusian Sergey Loznitsa. *In the Fog* tells of a man obliged to make choices in amoral circumstances. Set in 1942, on the territory of occupied Belarus, trackwalker Sushchenya

is falsely accused of collaboration with the Nazis by two partisans, who come to Sushchenya's farm to punish him. Sushchenya can only hope to prove his innocence.

Written by famous Belarusian Vasil Bykov, the international cinema project also involved MA.JA.DE Fiction (Germany), the Movie Company GP (Russia), Rija Films (Latvia), Lemming Film (the Netherlands), the television channel ZDF/ARTE (Germany), and the Eurimages Fund to Support European Cinema.

The film has already been awarded a prestigious *FIPRESCI* International Cinema Press Federation jury prize at the 65th International Film Festival in Cannes and was named 'best film' at the 14th International Film Festival in Trieste, as well as winning a Grand Prix at the 22nd *Golden Vityaz* International Slavic Cinema Forum, in Khabarovsk.

Two other films by Sergey Loznitsa — *Happiness of Mine* and *A Letter* — are being presented to American audiences, screened for one month: first in New York and then in other cities across the USA.