

Gennady Buralkin:

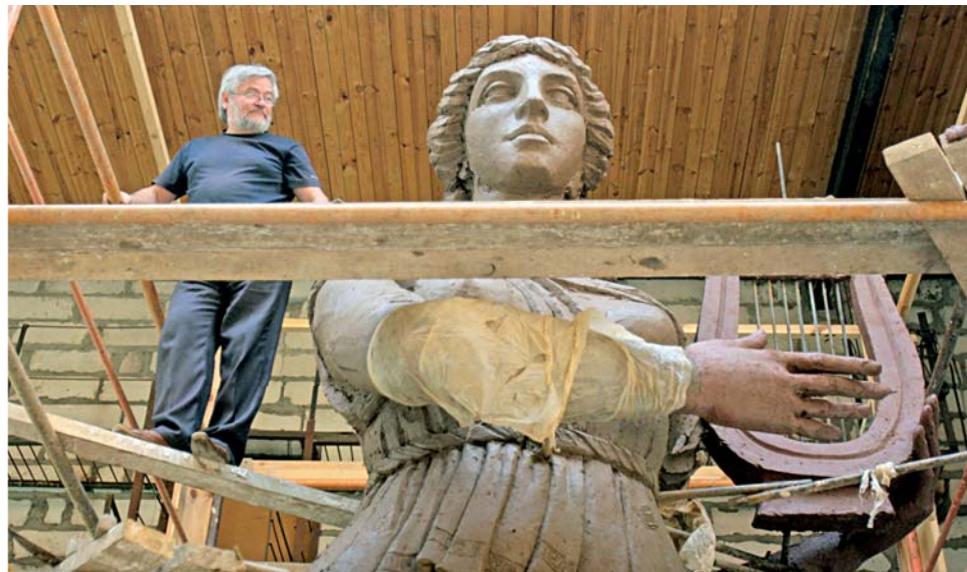
‘I enjoy taking flight in a romantic manner and incomplete lines...’

Famous Belarusian sculptor Gennady Buralkin known for his originality, unusual images and unique perception

By Victor Mikhailov

Gennady Buralkin sees unique opportunities for creativity, using diverse pictorial allegory, symbolism and metaphor. He seeks out inspiration from real life and from the Belarusian countryside, as well as from ancient myths and legends. The long held traditions and principles of sculpture are replaced by his complex portrayals and multi-layered compositions, filled with expression. Picturesqueness and diversity play an important role in his work but he has no clear preference for genre, material or theme, having diverse interests. Looking at his work from the last three decades, it's easy to recognise his style, despite the range of techniques and experimentation with colour. He has his own method of exploring the past and the present, and his own perceptions of his surroundings.

During his early years of independent creativity, Mr. Buralkin was keen on organisation of aesthetic environment, monumental sculpture, creating unique huge compositions from glass and metal. Even when he began to produce indoor and chamber sculpture, ‘monumentalism’ was at the core: simple and generalised forms, grand compositions and balanced proportions.



It may seem strange but the integrity of Buralkin's creativity lies in its intuitive and spontaneous combination of various elements: figurative, unexpected, expressive and, even, psychological, as well as architectural and design. He attaches great importance to material and its processing, as well as textures and colour.

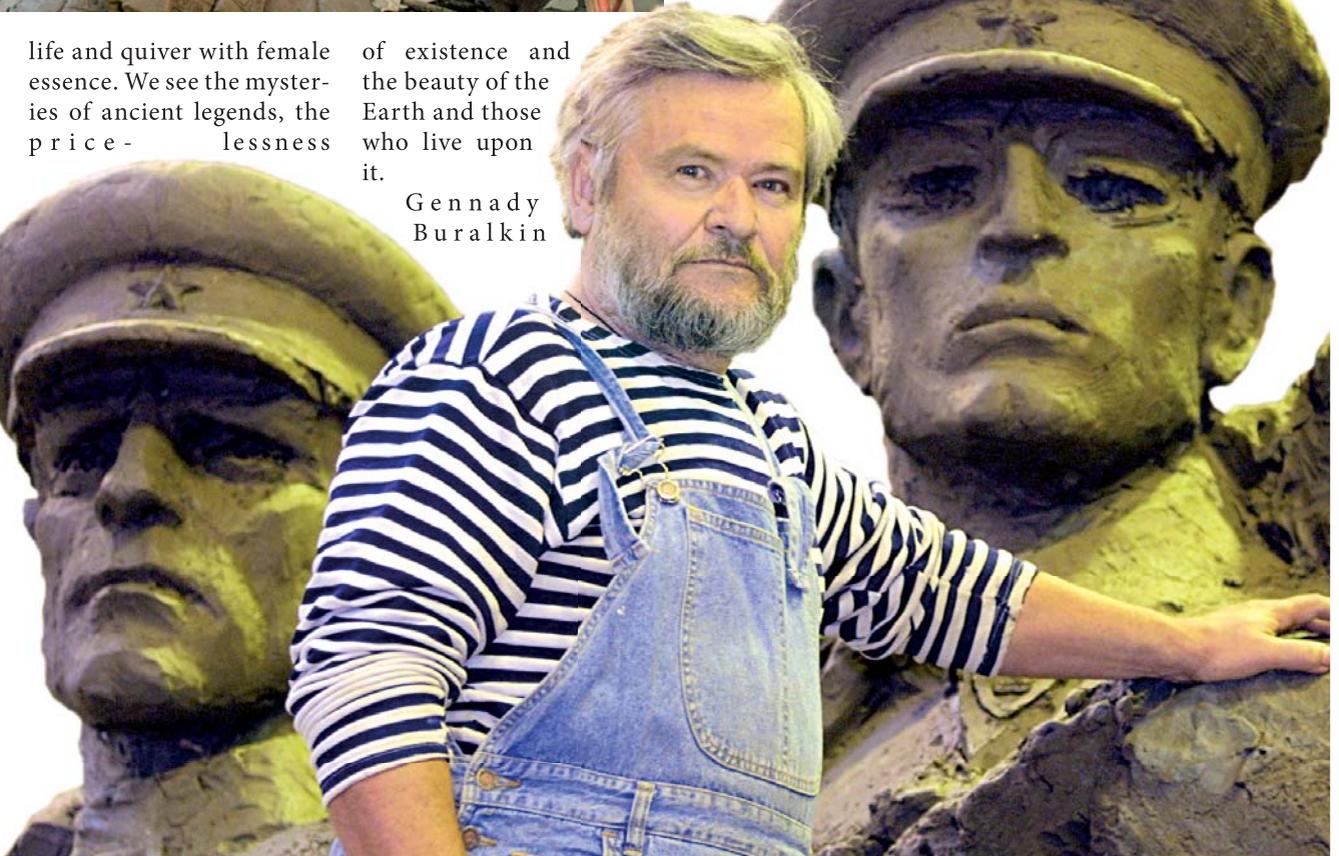
Graphic art is less important to him but we do see wonderful delicacy and grace. “I enjoy taking flight in a romantic manner, with musical strokes and incomplete lines,” admits Mr. Buralkin. “At the same time, I like to be expressive and exact in my thoughts — as if time has been captured.”

His drawings in coal, pen and ink sparkle with

life and quiver with female essence. We see the mysteries of ancient legends, the pricelessness

of existence and the beauty of the Earth and those who live upon it.

Gennady Buralkin



Gennady Buralkin is keen to work on monumental sculpture



Melpomene's sculpture for Minsk Opera and Ballet Theatre is entrusted to Gennady Buralkin

was born in 1942 in Kazakhstan, to a family of exiled émigrés from Belarus. In the 1970s, he graduated from the Belarusian Theatre and Art Institute's Sculpture Department and, since then, has practiced indoor and monumental sculpture. In 1990-2001, he chaired the Belarusian Union of Artists. Mr. Buralkin has participated in Republican and international exhibitions and

plein air seminars, while his works are kept at the National Art Museum, at Mogilev's Regional Art Museum (named after Pavel Maslennikov) and at the Art Museum in Flagstaff (Northern Carolina, USA). Many private collections, in Belarus and abroad, also boast his works.

International project unites two countries

Tales of Hoffmann illustrations presented in Minsk for first time

The illustrations accompanying the German tales by Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffmann have been presented for the first time at the State Literary and Memorial Museum of Yakub Kolas. The Drawings of Hoffman exhibition, dedicated to the 237th anniversary of the writer, includes collections from the Kaliningrad Re-

gional Museum of History and Arts.

Every year, the birthday of the master is celebrated internationally with Hoffmann exhibitions. This year, Russia's Kaliningrad Regional History and Arts Museum, and the State Literary and Memorial Museum of Yanka Kupala joined forces with Belarus' State Literary and Memorial Museum of Yakub Kolas to organise displays of his illustrations: these included the *Fairy*

Tales of Life display, by Belarusian poet Yakub Kolas.

Hoffmann's first book of stories was published in 1814: *Fantasy Pieces in Callot's Manner*. It was well received but, in 1822, the writer died. Since then, Hoffman has gained popularity around the world, with his novels and stories translated into French and English. No other German romantic writer has received such global recognition.

Audience receives performance warmly

By Galina Grishkovets

Belarusian Rhapsody performed in Caracas by Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela

The *Bicentennial Rhapsody* concert, performed by the National Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela, was recently hosted by the Teresa Carreño Theatre, in the Venezuelan capital. The guest conductor was the First Secretary of the Venezuelan Embassy to Belarus, Gerardo Estrada, who also manages the

Simon Bolivar Latin American Cultural Centre in Minsk.

The concert was in six segments, of which *Belarusian Rhapsody* formed one part. Before performing, Gerardo Estrada welcomed the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to Venezuela, H.E. Mr. Oleg Paferov, and Belarusian diplomats. He especially emphasised that the performance of *Belarusian Rhapsody* was dedicated to the friendship between the peo-

ples of Venezuela and Belarus. The performance was warmly received.

After the concert, Mr. Paferov chatted with the Chief of the International Strategic Policy Department of the Culture Ministry of Venezuela, Katuska Rodríguez, and the Chairman of the Venezuelan National Music Company Fund, José Antonio Naranjo Zerpa. They reached a preliminary agreement to hold Days of Belarusian Culture in Venezuela.