

Acquaintance expands true creative borders of our mind

Intersections and Continuity in Mayenne, at National Art Museum of Belarus, displays works from Naïve Art Museum in French Laval, alongside those from the private collections of Michel Leroux and Marc Valin and private collections of authors themselves

By Victor Mikhailov

This exhibition is interested not only by the exhibited artworks. It also attracts by the newsworthy information which can be learnt only at the exhibition hall.

In the 1960s and 1970s, French Laval's artistic movement began, which continues to exist nowadays. In 1972, Brigitte Maurice, who began her creative path in Paris, moved to Laval at the suggestion of artist Jean-Pierre Bouvet — the director of the town's Museum of Naïve Art. She completely devoted herself to her work, creating canvases filled with recollections and mystery. Jacques Reumeau also worked in Laval, using the advices of prominent painters François Aubin Barbâtre and Jean-Eric Fouchault when he was a beginning self-taught painter.

Intersections and Continuity in Mayenne (La Mayenne à L'œuvre: Croisements et Filiation) presents naïve, popular and singular trends, which led to the creation of a dynamic and unique style (via their interaction). Surrealist and fantastic influences enriched these artistic crossings.

The current exhibition showcases the creativity of only a dozen painters, although many other famous masters are bright representatives of

the Laval School — including Gustave Cahoreau, Antoine Rigal and Joël Lorand.

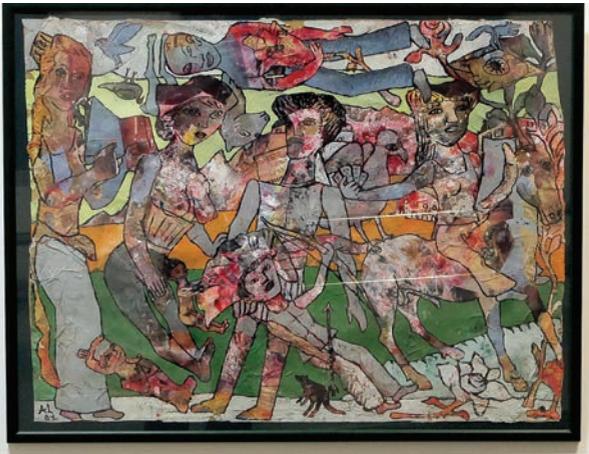
Back in the 16th century, royal doctor and famous illustrator Ambroise Paré founded the 'fantastic trend' of the Mayenne painters with his engravings, which inspired such names as Henri Rousseau (1844-1910) and Alfred Jarry (1873-1907). These outstanding masters, in turn, inspired other independent painters born in Mayenne, who began their creative path as representatives of other professions.

Robert Tatin, a bricklayer and builder, began to paint and sculpt after 1945, having dedicated many years to constructing his own church — a huge museum in Cossé-le-Vivien, revealing his own poetic vision of the world. Tatin's contemporary, cabinetmaker Henri Trouillard, began devoting himself to fantastic and naïve works in the 1950s, working

while bringing himself closer to singular art. Today's artists are still influenced by these masters: Serge Paillard depicts the mysterious archaeology of the invented country of Patatonie in his works, while Jean-Louis Cerisier combines elements of dream and reality. Continuity is preserved via the Musée du Vieux Château. Laval-born hardware goods trader Jules Lefranc (1887-1972), from Paris, inherited a wonderful artistic gift from his prominent predecessor Henri Rousseau. Lefranc donated his collection of artworks to Laval, founding the Museum of Naïve Art in 1967. His followers, including Jean-Pierre Bouvet and Charles Schaette, continue the traditions of naïve art, organising exhibitions and



Crowds gather at *Intersections and Continuity* exhibition



City over River Nieman acquires new and honorary status

By Andrey Fiodorov

Grodno to become Belarus' cultural capital for 2014

In late January, the Grodno Regional Drama Theatre will host celebrations to mark the city over the River Nieman acquiring new, honorary status as our cultural capital. A major festive concert is planned, featuring bands and Belarusian stars from the Grodno Region.

Throughout the year, the region will be hosting around 300 events, including a holiday of national cuisine, concerts and exhibitions, with items donated by the National Art Museum and the National History Museum. The Kupala Theatre will also bring its performances to Grodno.

The 10th Republican Festival of National Cultures, traditionally held in Grodno in June, also promises to be a significant cultural event.

Tufelki comes to Monaco



Scene from film *Tufelki*

By Tatiana Nizhina

Film short by director Konstantin Fam, devoted to memory of Holocaust victims, takes main prizes at 11th Angel Film Awards International Film Festival in Monaco

The co-production by Belarus, Russia, Poland, the USA, the Czech Republic and France has won prizes for 'Best Short Length Film', 'Best Director', 'Best Producer', 'Best Camerawork'

and 'Best Original Music'. The film also received the *Angel Peace Award* for promoting peace.

Producers Konstantin Fam from Costa Fam Film (Russia) and Yury Igrusha and Sergey Zhdanovich from Nonstop MEDIA (Belarus) presented the film at the festival. Belarus' Sergey Novikov took the honour of 'Best Camerawork' for *Tufelki*, which is now entered for the 'Best Short-Length Film' nomination at the 2014 Oscars.