

The teacher has said his loaded word

The National Art Museum has opened an exhibition dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the work of the People's Artist of Belarus and State Award laureate, Pavel Maslenikov

By Victor Mikhailov

The exhibition, called *Teacher and His Pupils*, reflects not only the huge legacy of a famous painter, but also exposes those rich traditions that have been strengthened by students of the master.

Pavel Maslenikov is one of the most famous Belarusian masters of landscape painting and scenic painting of the 20th century. Scenic painter, landscape artist, art historian and teacher and supporter of classical traditions in art, he lived by the process of creativity, appreciated skills and professionalism. The work of the Honoured Figure of Arts of BSSR, People's Artist of Belarus, PhD of Arts, Associate Professor, laureate of the State Award of Belarus, Pavel Maslenikov was equally focused on creating a national theatre culture and the development of Belarusian arts.

The current exhibition features more than fifty paintings of the master from the collection of the National Art Museum of Belarus, the Mogilev Regional Art Museum of Pavel Maslenikov and the late artist's family. Landscapes created by Pavel Maslenikov from the late 1940s to the early 1990s depict native nature which was close to his heart. The artist does not offer any unusual visual images, but everyone wants to stare endlessly at them, to admire the colours. Picturesque distances, soft lines, the slow pace of colour transitions. The contact with beauty in its highest manifestation is felt again and again, when the aesthetic merges with the ethical ideal. Beauty interflows with the good. Semantic foundation of

a landscape, inscribed in the visual, stems from the experience of life, absorbing all its wisdom.

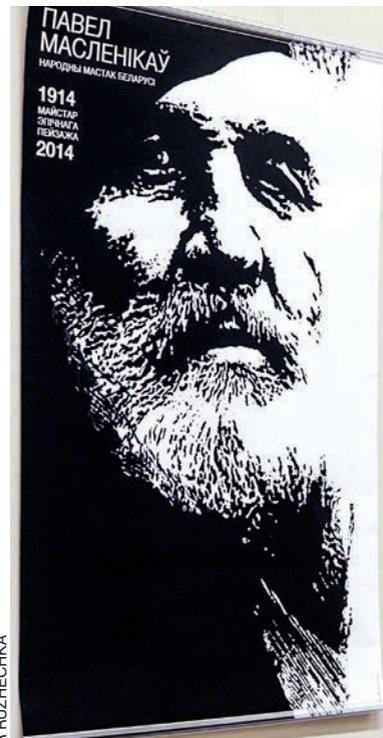
Despite the large service and public workload, Pavel Maslenikov practiced and perfected his skill of a painter on a daily basis. With an easel on his shoulder, he walked and toured many countries: India, Nepal, Finland, Sweden, the Carpathian Mountains of Altai, the Baltics, the Crimea and the Volga River



Exposition arouses interest among visitors

area, Italy, France and Egypt... And, of course, all corners of his native Belarus. He created a landscape chronicle of his travels. His works stand out with a romantic mood, a realistic reflection of nature.

It becomes evident when one observes them at the exhibition, that his paintings cover all possible



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landscapes: urban, architectural, marine, industrial, historical. One feels that the artist's canvases reproduce the nature which is close to his heart. Feelings, especially the concept of the universe and life, are expressed through his landscapes. Pictures like *Flax in Bloom*, *On Na-*

roch, *Winter in Belarus* and many others, were painted directly from nature.

It is possible to see the reflection of spiritual life in thematic canvases like *Last, Road of Death*, *Harvest*, *Year of 1929* and *On the Victory Day*. His pictures surprise with their subtlety of painting and their



Artist's daughter, Vera Prokoptsova, at the opening of exhibition

ability to identify the rich nature of poetic feeling. During the last years of his life, Pavel Maslenikov worked on a series called *Native Land*. It consists of several landscapes (also exhibited at the exhibition), which truthfully and convincingly convey the beauty of the Fatherland. In the landscape *Tunes of Summer*, which *Leaves* there is admiration for the beauty of nature and the sadness that summer ends, and in the *Early Spring* contains the joy of spring awakening.

Art Museum and the city of Mogilev, near to where he was born and spent his school years. And he returned there once again, giving fellow citizens his pictures, where he created unique, enchanting images of his native land, his own special world where reality is intertwined with poetry, painting filled with musicality, and expression approaching theatricality.

During his teaching years at the Belarusian State Theatre and Art Institute, Pavel Maslenikov trained

more than a generation of students who subsequently found their own ways, and became worthy successors to their teacher in the national art. The current exhibition also features works by eleven well known Belarusian artists: Valentina Bartlova, Tamara Vlasuyuk, Yevgeny Zhdan, Galina Krivoblotskaya, Alla



Commemorative coin with the painter's picture

Summarising his creative life, Pavel Maslenikov wrote, "The long journey of an artist's ascension into professional, creative life passes in the depths of the social life of people, in the infinite richness of his spiritual life, the spiritual union of nations."

He left us a rich artistic heritage. The artist determined the fate of most of his works during his lifetime. He donated about 140 pictures, sketches of scenery and costumes to the Mogilev Regional

Nepochelovich, Mikhail Romanyuk, Sergey Solokhin, Natalia Sukhoverkhova, Yevgenia Shuneiko and Margarita Schemeleva. The work of each of them is different, containing their distinct personality, beginning with the selection of the type of art in which they prefer to work, and ending with a personal vision of the world, interpreted in their works. However, one thing binds them all — they were lucky enough to learn from the master, who planted in each of them, a grain of creativity.

Choreography under the influence of Marc Chagall

By Natalia Ivanova

3rd International Festival, Vladimir Spivakov Invites, will begin on February 18th, when there will be concerts every day until the end of the month. The feature of the current project will be a combination of music, filmmaking and ballet.

According to the festival producer, Maxim Berin, the main task for this year was not just the expansion of the programme, but also its variety. Has this been achieved? We will start from the beginning. Two big musicians, Vladimir Spivakov and Dmitry

Khvorostovsky will open the festival. The latter, despite a full schedule, could not refuse the maestro. His performance in Minsk is a gift not only to Belarusians, but also to Vladimir Spivakov who will celebrate his 70th anniversary this year. The programme will include compositions by Wagner, Rubinstein and Verdi.

Furthermore, the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Russia will go to Gomel and then to Mogilev. The programme *Hour of Chaplin* will be introduced to residents of these cities. They not only will see his best film, *City Lights*, but also will hear the music, which he wrote.

During these concerts, Spivakov will conduct, while in the following concert, at the Minsk Philharmonic Society, he will take in hands his favourite instrument, a violin. It will be an *Hour of Bach*. Arkady Valados' time will come a bit later. By the way, one reason for the pianist's consent to the invitation to perform in Minsk, was his affinity with the country. It appears that the father of the world famous musician is a native of Belarus. It is interesting that in Germany, where Valados lives, as well as in other countries, tickets for his concerts are sold quickly sold.

This concert will not become the

only of Belarusian origin. The programme *Stars of World Ballet* has been made exclusively, taking into account the districts where it will take place. For example, the performance of French choreographer Roland Petit *Searches of Lost Time* was created after personal acquaintance with Marc Chagall and under the influence of his works.

According to the art director of the project, Tobias Ehinger, while making the ballet programme, they focused on the traditions of the Royal Ballet of Great Britain and the different dancing schools of Germany. Why so? Because Belarusians do not know

these directions so well. "In one evening, the audience will have a unique opportunity to see the best masters of dance, where normally, it would be necessary to go abroad," explains Ehinger.

The festival will be closed by other stars of the world opera stage. This year, artists of the best musical theatres of Russia, the Mariinsky Theatre and the Bolshoi Theatre, are also invited. As a matter of fact, there is nothing surprising in this, because, where Spivakov performs; there is the best of everything. Belarusians could be convinced of this even twice. Now they have one more chance.