

Anonymous Warsaw and Tbilisi artists united in Minsk

Modern Fine Arts Museum's small hall hosts *Street-ART* exhibition

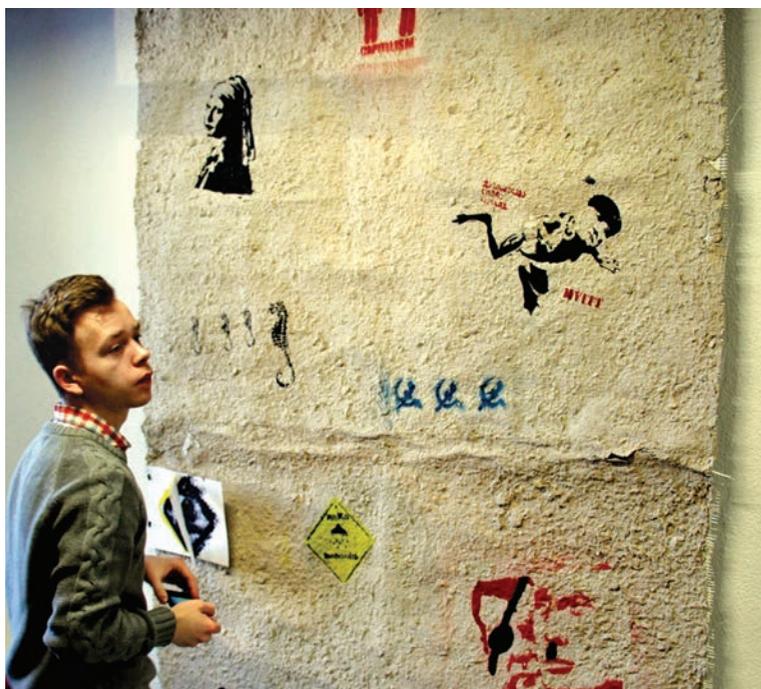
By Mikhail Matievsky

Photos of street art from such geographically remote locations as Warsaw and Tbilisi are on show in Minsk, explains the curator of the exhibition, Wiktor Krzysztoporski. He tells us, "We wanted to show that a pattern on a wall is an absolutely free creation, without borders or nationality. We've deliberately put aside political and historical themes in order to have universal appeal. Patterns are an integral branch of street art and, being relatively easy to achieve, can serve as a form of artistic expression for everyone."

The artists are nameless —

from Warsaw and Tbilisi — with the original exhibits reproduced by plastering the walls. While the two cities seem completely opposite at first sight, some similarities are obvious.

Art critics differ in considering street art to be worthy of admiration, notes Leonid Khabotov, Deputy Chairman of the Belarusian Union of Artists. He asserts, "What we are dealing with today is not street art but conceptual art. Simple signs on the wall, hooliganism or absolute freedom (which street art implies) have acquired form and idea. Perhaps, this is a great opportunity for a new trend in art to be recognised."



Street-ART attracts attention

37 choral groups from six countries

By Andrey Fiodorov

13th International Festival of Orthodox Chants — Kolozhsky Blagovest — hosted by Grodno

The six-day programme is to feature choirs from various countries, in addition to the *Our Churches* photo exhibition from the Grodno folk photo club and the screening of dozens of films dedicated to the Orthodox Faith. Moreover, the Grodno Museum of Religious History is hosting an exhibition of icons of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, entitled *Great Wonderworker*.

According to the Director of the festival, Vladimir Lebedsky, this year, the forum brings together 37 choirs from six countries. Alongside Belarusian choirs and ensembles, four bands are arriving from Russia, two from Ukraine, three from Poland, one from Romania and one from Armenia. Among the participants are *Avatamak* choir from St. Gregory the Illuminator Church, of the Etchmiadzin Monastery from Armenia, the Platon Maiboroda Academic Choir of the National Radio Company of Ukraine, and Moscow Old Believers' Cathedral Choir, of the Protection of the Mother of God.

Beauty of landscapes and nature in 'another dimension'

Belarusfilm National Film Studio presents *Island of Wonder* or *Polesie Robinsons* two-part children's adventure film



During shooting of *Polesie Robinsons*

By Vladimir Samsonov

Island of Wonder or *Polesie Robinsons* tells of the adventures of 12 year olds Ilya, Miron, and Miron's sister Yulia, who set out in search of an island from Yanka Mavr's novel. The film also features Vladlenych, the grandfather of Miron and Yulia, and a money-obsessed journalist. The characters find themselves

transported in time, to a land ruled by a black magician, where they discover the real value of life...

Belarusfilm Director Oleg Silvanovich emphasises, "The most important thing about the film is that it refers to our national literature. We shouldn't forget the great book by Yanka Mavr, which we all know from childhood. We want children to value our culture, the beauty of

our landscapes and the opportunities that Belarus gives to young people. We've noticed that our children are losing their connection with nature, and that is why the film features so many outdoor scenes. It's important for Belarusfilm to show the vast opportunities that our country offers. We only need to rediscover them. We updated Yanka Mavr's plot and connected two time periods, so the characters from the book meet modern children."

The main roles are played by Belarusian schoolchildren from Minsk: Alexander Talako, Mikhail Karenetsky, Yegor Rozsudovsky and Yegor Shik. Anastasia Kravchenya, from Gomel, who won the Audience Choice Award in the *I Sing* contest.

The film also features People's Artist of the USSR Gennady Ovsyannikov, People's Artist of Belarus Alexander Tkachenok, actors Sergey Vlasov, Igor Denisov, and Vladimir Ivanov. The script was written by Fiodor Konev and Yegor Konev, while the producer is Sergey Sychev.

City thriller by amateur scriptwriters

By Polina Likhmanenko

5-year students from Belarusian State University's Journalism Institute — Denis Moroz and Denis Kobtsov — among finalists of 1st Russian Glavpitching Screenwriting Contest

The young scriptwriters' *Suicide Club* is a thriller set in the city, combining intense intrigue and moral dilemmas. In reaching the final 35 scripts (among 2,900), the jury has recommended the work for screening. The contest commission comprised

editors of leading Russian film companies and unions, as well as producers, critics and film experts — such as Fiodor Bondarchuk, Valery Todorovsky and Ilya Bachurin.

The contest gathered 1,930 writers from Russia and the CIS.

Andrey Trubetskoy's cross and anchors

By Sergey Ivanov

Collection of unique artefacts praised by many local lore museums

Andrey Trubetskoy is a financier and an entrepreneur who loves to conduct research in his spare time. In recent years, the bottom of the Dvina River has opened many new historical directions for him. In ancient times, the well-known 'Varangians to Greeks' route passed along this river, not far from Beshenkovichi. The local major fair gathered merchants from all over the globe. Their commodities were unloaded at the roadside and unsurprisingly, household articles and shipping accessories are often discovered here.

Mr. Trubetskoy's collection is truly rich. It includes coins, buttons, glass holders, knives, spoons, crockery, axes, hammers, locks and weights. Each of his finds has a historical value going beyond the borders of his native land. The collector also owns several rarities including a late 19th century British straw chopper, which works well even now. Mr. Trubetskoy's other rare treasures include a German threshing machine (which lacks a few components), a stone axe from the late Neolithic period and a fragment of a mammoth tusk.

Last year, Mr. Trubetskoy began searching for, and retrieving anchors. His oldest anchor, by his

best guess, is over 200 years old and the heaviest weighs around 150kg. Interestingly, no specialised diver equipment was used to lift them off the river bed. His team needed just standard diving masks (with snorkel), flippers, a boat and some other simple equipment.

"My underwater 'Odyssey' began long ago, with fishing," explains the man. "As the Dvina is not rich in catfish or pike, I was attracted by river finds. I've also been interested in the history of my native land since my childhood. I loved to talk to the elderly who knew the history from their own experience."

Mr. Trubetskoy plans to unveil a plaque on the site of the former quay (which 'gave birth' to Beshenkovichi). He also wishes to restore and erect a dome cross. The latter is truly unique. In the early 19th century, the Napoleonic army burnt down the Dvina settlements but the local St. Nikolay Church, built in 1774, mysteriously remained untouched — the enemy probably preserved it as a fortress.

The church existed until 1898 but was then demolished. However, its iron forged cross has survived. Luckily, it outlived the Soviet times and is now in a good state (although covered with grass). Mr. Trubetskoy states that he will not rest until he has installed this artefact on the banks of the Dvina.

