

# Creative findings of designer and couturier

Paris hosts first demonstration of joint works by Belarusian artist and designer Larissa Noury-Shakinko and French couturier Jean Marie Pujol

By Galina Grishkovets

*Picturesque Colour and High Fashion*, organised in co-operation with the Embassy of Belarus to France, featured Larissa Noury-Shakinko's artworks and her collection of exclusive dresses designed in tandem with Jean Marie Pujol, who has previously worked with Christian Dior and Yves Saint-Laurent.

Famous French couturier Jean Marie Pujol owns a chain of fashion boutiques in Paris and began his creative career in 1955, dressing such prominent actresses as Marlene Dietrich, Rita Hayworth and Zizi Jeanmaire.

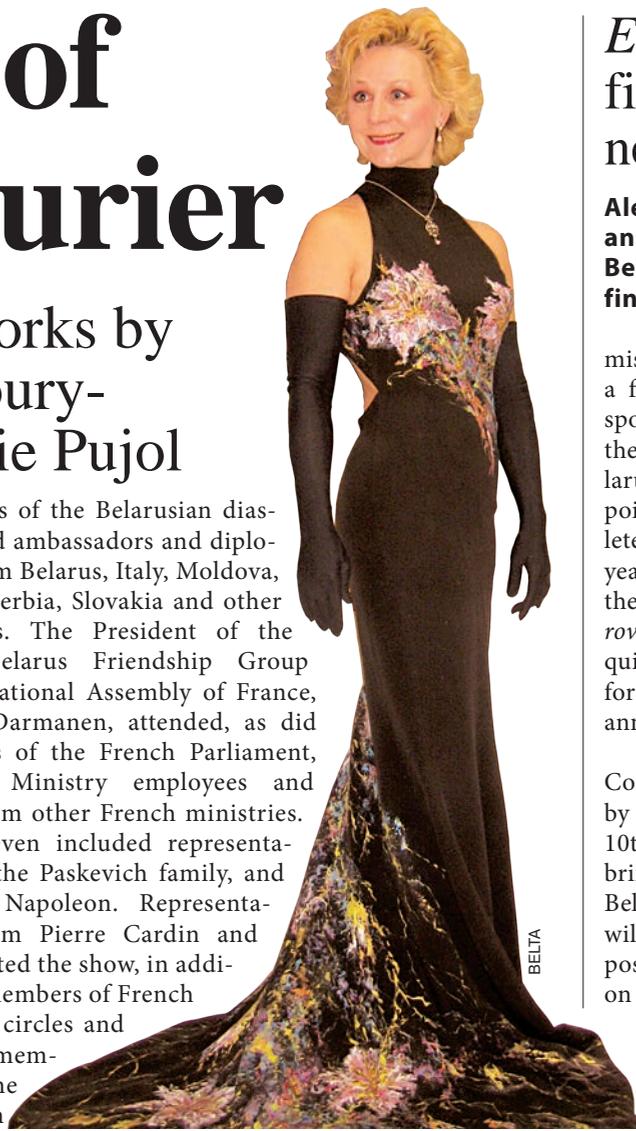
Larissa's unique silk painting adorns evening dresses by Jean Marie, creating gowns which are utterly original and admired greatly by the sophisticated French. Larissa tells us

that she has long been liaising with the designer, decorating silk fabrics for use in creating dresses.

Each of the exhibited dresses was created for a particular event. For instance, 'White Lily' was designed for an exhibition at the Louvre, 'Royal Orchid' graced an art festival in Malaysia and 'Peacock' was made for the Chinese International Forum; 'Two Hands, or Lavender Fields' travelled to an event in the UK.

The Paris expo involved 14 models — from Belarus, France, Russia, China and elsewhere. The show was accompanied by a screening of *Dreaming of Harmony*, featuring a score by French composer Herve Noury — Larissa's husband. Among the 200 guests were various well-known personalities from the world of fashion, art and politics — as well as repre-

sentatives of the Belarusian diaspora, and ambassadors and diplomats from Belarus, Italy, Moldova, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia and other countries. The President of the France-Belarus Friendship Group of the National Assembly of France, Gerald Darmanen, attended, as did members of the French Parliament, Foreign Ministry employees and those from other French ministries. Guests even included representatives of the Paskevich family, and Charles Napoleon. Representatives from Pierre Cardin and Dior visited the show, in addition to members of French business circles and some members of the French public.



Larissa Noury-Shakinko

## Eurovision-2013 finalist takes on new role

Alena Lanskaya to announce points from Belarus in Eurovision-2014 finals

"Since 2004, this honorary mission has been performed by a famous celebrity — from the sporting or cultural fields," notes the Head of Eurovision for Belarus, Olga Shlyager. "Last year, points were announced by biathlete Darya Domracheva and, this year, Alena Lanskaya is taking up the baton. She was among the Eurovision finalists last year and it's quite common around the world for past contest representatives to announce points."

The Eurovision-2014 Song Contest finals are being hosted by Copenhagen from May 6th-10th, under the motto of 'Join Us', bringing together 37 countries. Belarusian Teo (Yuri Vashchuk) will perform his *Cheesecake* composition in the second semi-final, on May 8th, under number 10.

As is traditional, Belarus 1 and Belarus 24 TV channels will broadcast the two semi-finals and the final live.

## For the first time for thirty years

A book of poems by the national poet of Belarus, Yakub Kolas, which had been in the space, has been presented in Minsk. The book has been taken into the *Starry Heaven* exposition of the national painter of Belarus, Ivan Misko, which opened in the State Memorial and Literature Museum of Yakub Kolas.

The size of the book is 8.5x7cm. This miniature tome was published in 1972 to celebrate the 90th birthday of the poet.

In 1975, Piotr Klimuk took the book in orbit. It was the second flight of the first Belarusian spaceman. The spaceman conquered the stars as commander of the Soyuz

spacecraft, together with onboard engineer Vitaly Sevastyanov. The spacemen took the flight on the Salyut-4 orbital scientific station docked with the Soyuz-18 spacecraft. They spent more than 60 days alone with the Universe.

In October of 1975, Piotr Klimuk presented the 'starry' book

to Daniil Mitskevich — the son of Yakub Kolas and the first director of the museum. Workers at the museum confess that they don't remember when the book was last exhibited. They say that it may have been the first time in 30 years.

The exhibition acquaints visitors with 40 works of the famous scul-

tor and painter, Ivan Misko. Photo portraits of Piotr Klimuk, Vladimir Kovalenko, Alexey Leonov and Valentina Tereshkova from the personal archive of Ivan Misko are among them. A bust of Yuri Gagarin — the only sculpture of the spaceman that was (posthumously) sculptured by Ivan Misko — is also presented here.

## Brightness — sister of talent

Corporate identity of Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk-2014 worked out

The trademark of the festival is, as ever, at its heart.

"Honestly speaking, this year we have fleshed out its elements with living neon colors," they say at the 'Vitebsk' Cultural Centre. "When people look at the festival posters, they will get various associations. For example, they can see fireworks in the festival sky, the fly-away skirts of the dancers or even a cornflower."

The corporate identity of the festival has been created by Darya Volkova — commercial artist at the centre.

The corporate identity of the festival is traditionally used by the decoration of print and video production and the making of souvenirs, as well as on tickets, posters, diplomas, accreditation cards, T-shirts and postcards. Advertising clips of presentation are being created also in this style.

## Four kilogram folio

The *Treasures of Belarusian Museums* catalogue, presented in Minsk, is a first edition and lists the most precious museum exhibits in the country

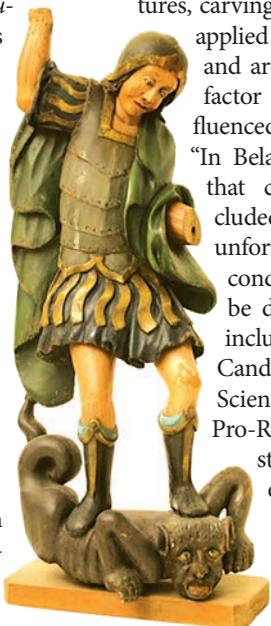
By Vladimir Mikheev

The *Treasures of Belarusian Museums* catalogue is a unique, gilt-edged folio edition weighing around four kilograms. The 500-page catalogue contains information about 250 rare items from 32 Republican, regional and district museums of Belarus.

Work on the catalogue began two years ago. The authors started by gathering information and working with museums remotely. After that, the specialists organised an expedition, during which they visited funds of different cultural establishments and museum exhibitions.

The catalogue features unique collections of icon paintings, sculptures, carvings, and decorative-and-applied arts of great cultural and artistic value. The visual factor also significantly influenced the selection process.

"In Belarus we have artefacts that could have been included in the catalogue, but unfortunately today their condition leaves much to be desired, so we did not include them," explains the Candidate of Philological Sciences, Irina Laptanok, Pro-Rector of the Culture Institute of Belarus. "The edition features items dating back to 3,000 BC. It also contains artefacts that today have no equivalents in Eastern Europe. The



Sculpture of St. George



During presentation of the *Treasures of Belarusian Museums* catalogue

most recent items of the catalogue date back to the late 18th-early 19th century. Although we exceeded the planned volume of the catalogue by a factor of two, we didn't manage to include all the items that had been selected in this edition."

The catalogue has been issued in three languages: Belarusian, Russian, and English. Ms. Laptanok believes that it will be interesting, not only for specialists, but also for the general

public. "The book has many pictures and photographs larger than A4 in size. Moreover, it includes enlarged fragments of each item," she added.

The catalogue has been created for the presentation of Belarusian culture abroad, and is expected to contribute to co-operation with other countries. The edition has already become part of the funds of the National Library, as well as regional and university libraries.