

# Master's hand felt through centuries

Ivan Khrutsky's works exhibited at Tretyakov Gallery for first time

By Eduard Pivovarov

The State Tretyakov Gallery has dedicated several halls to an exhibition of works by prominent Belarusian artist. It has already hosted the *Ivan Khrutsky: Art Through Dialogue of Cultures* exhibition, which marks the end of the Year of Belarusian Culture in Russia. Moreover, this

year also celebrates the 200th anniversary of Khrutsky's birth — as registered on the UNESCO List of Memorable Dates. The Moscow exhibition includes 32 paintings, with 23 provided by the National Art Museum of Belarus and nine from the Tretyakov Gallery's archive. The collections allow Khrutsky's creativity to be represented in its



Collections by two museums — Russian and Belarusian — display Ivan Khrutsky's creativity in its full entirety

entirety, showcasing not only his famous still-life paintings, but also portraits, landscapes and paintings of interiors.

The organisers of the exhibition expect it to be very popular. Belarus has the most

complete and interesting collection of the artist's works, but this is the first time they have been exhibited in Moscow. The paintings from the Tretyakov Gallery's collection have almost never been seen

before either, having been acquired recently, or having been under long-term restoration. *To the Holy Place* and *Cupids with Garlands* are on display for the first time.

The exhibition includes

one painting well known to all Belarusians, even those who know little of fine arts: Ivan Khrutsky's still-life which is depicted on the Br1,000 banknote of the National Bank of Belarus.

# Retro rhythm of favourite melodies recorded on vinyl

True music lovers dream of musical retro museum opening

By Olga Pasyak

On walking the streets of New York or Berlin, you sometimes pass small musical stores, situated on the ground floor of ordinary houses. It seems time stops inside the door, with vinyl records on sale rather than DVDs. True music lovers are frequent visitors — among them an amazingly large number of young people. Are there any similar shops in our country?

On an autumnal day, I went in search of vinyl records but, sadly, no such specialist shops exist in Belarus. You have to turn to the Internet to buy these records or to a collector's house. Special furniture should be built to house the 12 inch discs: itself a rarity. Eventually, my search yielded results and I met a true collector. "I began showing interest in music in the 1980s — at the age of 12," explains Dmitry Shulga.

"At that time, cassettes were more popular, with vinyl discs already going out of fashion; although the covers were much clearer, so you could see each artist in more detail. I was most fond of rock, particularly from the 1950s-early 1980s. My collection now exceeds 6,000 vinyl discs, with the oldest being a jazz record from 1949. Look at this shelf: here is a *Deep Purple* record, while *Pink Floyd's* is nearby. I have several by *The Beatles*. Today, almost everything has been released on CD; vinyl discs account for a tiny share. Moreover, it's almost impossible to buy vinyl records of music from

the 2000s in our country; these are only available abroad. True collectors tend to know each other (within a district) and communicate via the Internet. We make links with those from the UK, Canada and the USA, who send out discs. Of course, to non-enthusi-



as, vinyl discs are about as interesting as plates but collectors view them differently."

There are many reasons for the lack of shops selling vinyl discs in Belarus. Firstly, discs tend to be owned by collectors, who love them and listen to them from time to time; they're in no hurry to sell them. Secondly, despite their rarity

value, most fetch modest prices, so selling them doesn't hold great attraction (in comparison to wide spread MP3s). Thirdly, people usually have a strong connection to their belongings; collectors associate their discs with particular memories and bright impressions.

"Foreigners are very interested in Russian rock records released by Melody," notes Dmitry. "*Pesnyary* is of the most interest among all Soviet performers, since the band toured abroad. Western listeners have little familiarity with other groups and are more interested in records of Western music which were released in Belarus, since they have different covers, packaging and text; they are unique."

What is of the greatest value to collectors? Classic rock is more complex than dance music, so has more serious fans, while jazz is less popular still — both in our country and abroad.

Meanwhile, pop music has no connection with vinyl. "Collecting vinyl discs for a hobby is not a cheap pastime," explains Dmitry. "Accordingly, those who are fond of doing so are not poor. They see collecting as a hobby rather than a way of making money. As regards young people, rock band members tend to be most interested. Of course, to listen to these records, you need the right equipment, which is difficult to find now. A museum of vinyl discs would naturally have its visitors, though their number would be small, unsurprisingly. If you sent me to look at old washing machines, I'd find it dull; most view old vinyl discs in the same light."

# Writer who knows history perfectly

Central Scientific Library (named after Yakub Kolas) of Belarus' National Academy of Sciences presents *Knight of Belarusian Land* exhibition dedicated to 80th anniversary of Belarusian literary genius Vladimir Korotkevich

The exhibition is showcasing about 500 (out of 1,600) written and graphic materials relating to the life and works of Vladimir Korotkevich, from library archives. These include manuscripts of his works from the 1950s (with the author's drawings), the novels *Ears Under Your Sickle*, *Christ Landed in Grodno* and *Black Castle of Olshany*, alongside stories, essays and fairytales. Visitors will be able to see Mr. Korotkevich's writing from his days of studying at Kiev's State Shevchenko University: his notebooks, letters, rare photos, history-related drawings, illustrations for his own novels, portraits and friendly caricatures. Moreover, his books published in different languages are on show, in addition to those containing dedications to the writer.

Literary historian Anatoly Vorobei



Exhibition exhibits

called Vladimir Korotkevich 'a genius, prophet and national writer who knows Belarusian history and culture deeply and who has shown Belarusians' uniqueness, while creating an artistic chronicle of Belarus and doing much to awaken countrymen's national memory. Mr. Vorobei sees the return of the written legacy of this literary legend to his homeland as a significant move.

Not long ago, the National Library of Belarus presented Vladimir Korotkevich's *Savage Hunt of King Stakh* (a novel) in English, Belarusian, Russian and Ukrainian, published by the Belarusian Fund of Culture. The writer's 80th birthday was celebrated in Orsha, with the town being the first to see the new edition.

# Painting amateurs greatly delighted

Over 50 artists present their works at *Art-Krok* exhibition at National Library

*Art-Krok* is a traditional show by the International Guild of Painters, presenting the latest pieces by the organisation's artists. It allows the public and experts to gain insight into the creative process, allowing us to see their progress in painting. They are also given freedom of choice in their subject, allowing them to explore their true interests

and show the latest artistic trends.

The event showcases avant-garde pieces by young painters and realistic works by mature masters such as Vasily Kostyuchenko, Dmitry Surinovich, Alexander Zabavchik, Vladimir Kozhukh, Alexander Ksendzov and Vladimir Rynkevich.

This year, the exhibition is taking place as part of the *Land under White Wings* project, launched in September at the National Art Museum of Belarus.