

# Vladimir Volnov's pictures tell his story

Painter's personal exhibition at Minsk Palace of Arts demonstrates his diverse artistic techniques

By Victor Mikhailov

Vladimir Volnov has a personal attitude towards the presentation of his works, saying, "An exhibition shows an artist's eternal soul, free from time, reflecting his feelings and thoughts." The event is dedicated to his 70th birthday and demonstrates that he remains faithful to himself.

The artist has had a tough life, full of hardship. In June 1944, at

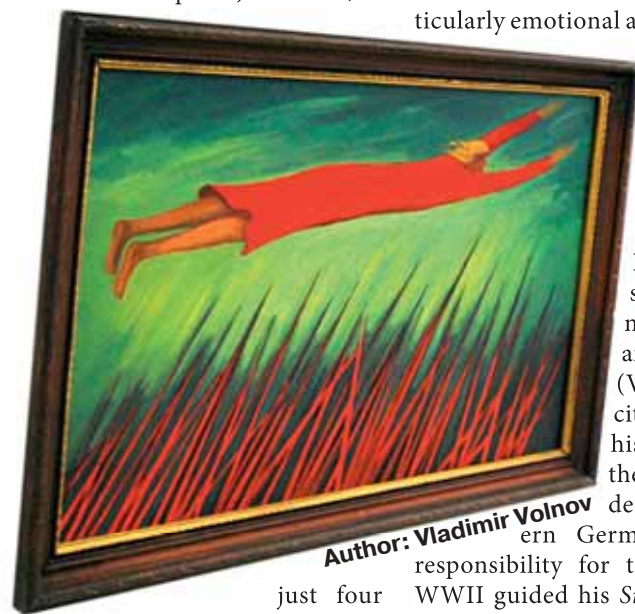
Vitebsk; the date then became his official birthday. His childhood left a strong mark on his memory so it's no surprise that Mr. Volnov's pictures are influenced by memories from his younger years, combined with philosophical, more adult reflections.

Several of his compositions — including those on show in Minsk — are based on actual historical events, with the theme of the past to the fore. His *Holocaust* is particularly emotional and expressive

while his installation pieces use real war-related objects as documentary proof.

His many shows in German Berlin and Nienburg (Vitebsk's twin city) inspired his Holocaust theme. The desire of modern

ermans to take responsibility for the events of WWII guided his *Signs of a Soul* series. It shows the evil of the Nazis and the value of human life.



Author: Vladimir Volnov

just four years old, Vladimir was found at the frontline, near



Vladimir Volnov's works inspire philosophical reflection

Mr. Volnov expresses his civil position towards the great human tragedy.

The theme of war is obvious in his other works. *In Memory of a Partisan* is full of red and military symbols while *Earth* inspires optimism and hope. Mr. Volnov also vividly explores relations between nature and man. In *Return: Devotion to the Father*, he depicts a man walking to his home, surrounded by huge trees, with a white cloud hanging over an orange road. It symbolises his

return to normality after the horrors of the war years.

Mr. Volnov has devoted many of his works to villages and their residents, whose fates are often complicated. You can feel his empathy for the modern tragedy of the abandoned territories — whose identity is lost forever. Some of his pictures feature photos and household items belonging to villagers, reminding us that their simple lifestyle is now gone. His *Indian Summer in Dead Village* is exemplary, featuring thematic

components: a blue sky and yellow-golden fields, bordering the black spots of neglected houses, no longer full of warmth and comfort. The artist is convinced that life is different in different times. However, Mr. Volnov always finds a place for depicting joy. *Building City*, *Harvest* and *Supper on Grass* are full of optimism.

This jubilee exhibition embraces his life experience and artistic diversity, revealing his inner self to audiences with great success.

## First collection is continued

By Anatoly Avrutin

At the age of 17, young Gomel poetess Maria Malinovskaya has already made a name for herself

Among the millions of those who write verse, only a few thousand do so professionally. Meanwhile, the number of true poets is even smaller. They notice what others fail to.

Having authored her first poetic collection — *Moon of Sadness* — at the tender age of 15, Maria immediately attracted attention from her profession. Her intonation is beyond her age, creating the impression that her verse is written by an elderly Balzac woman. At the same time, she lacks affectation or exaggeration.

Over the past two years, the poetess has managed to make a name for herself, winning the Grand Prix of the National Literary Competition (organised by the Belarusian Union of Writers),



Maria Malinovskaya

in addition to the prestigious D. Likhachev Literary Award in St. Petersburg and the N. Rubtsov

Award in Moscow. Not long ago, she was given a diploma from London's International Festival of Russian Poetry and Culture — *Pushkin in Britain*.

The recent release of her second volume — *Under a Transparent Hand* — shows that she is not just a child prodigy and is worthy of claiming her place on the adult stage. Those who kindly smiled on her young talent yesterday now see her as a worthy rival who threatens to unseat some established writers — perhaps to their chagrin.

However, it seems that the young poetess is unaffected by such matters, concentrating on creating poetry with a strong voice, full of emotions. Her new collection confirms her as a bright star among modern poets. Of course, her 'innocent' emotions may eventually be supplemented by more serious thoughts, borne of life experience — natural for any true poet. Nevertheless, we believe that Maria will cope well.

## Belarusfilm seeking talented cartoonists

By Anastasia Minakova

Have you loved cartoons since childhood, knowing the catchphrases of characters by heart? Do you have good writing skills? If so, you could enter a contest organised by Belarusfilm National Film Studio

Contest participants will compete in writing a cartoon script on a patriotic theme, designed to enhance the role of national cinematography in the socio-cultural life of society, while preserving and developing the traditions of national film art.

Scripts are to meet a certain artistic style, disclosing the richness of our inner world and the best elements of modern youth, while promoting an optimistic view of the development of our society and the state, as seen through the eyes of young peo-

ple. The richness of our history must be reflected, with scripts being educational and entertaining, aimed at pre-school and school age children.

The contest is open to those under the age of 31, with applications received until October 1st, 2011 (inclusively). Three copies of each script should be sent (stating the expected running time and technique of film making). Copies of personal identification documents, including the passport of a Belarusian or foreign citizen (containing information on name, family name, surname, date and place of birth and registration — either at the place of living or the place of stay) must be included. Mark the package as 'Youth Contest' and send to the Belarusian Culture Ministry's Cinematography Department (220004, Minsk, 11 Pobediteley Avenue). Results will be announced in November.