



Minsk exhibition *Artists of Gomel Region-2012* presents various creative works inspiring discussion

Bright palette never fades

Artists of Gomel Region-2012 exhibition, hosted by 'Palace of Arts' Minsk Gallery, is pleasant unexpected discovery for rather sophisticated capital audience

By Victor Mikhailov

Synthesising the richest Slavonic cultures of three nations — Belarus, Russia and Ukraine — the Gomel Region has carefully preserved its ethnographic and cultural essence. Its folk crafts and customs are distinctive, bearing the priceless spiritual legacy of the great Orthodox enlightener Kirill Turovsky. It bears many prominent names, of whom we can be proud: among them are academicians of painting, artist Georgy Nissky (1903-1987); People's Artist of the USSR, academicians of painting Yevsei Moiseenko (1916-1988); and People's Artist of Belarus Vitaly Tsvirko (1913-1993).

People's Artist of Belarus Gavriil Vashchenko (born in the Gomel Region's Polesie) has also made a great contribution to the development of contemporary national pictorial art. A gallery bearing his name successfully operates in the regional centre. The artist himself lives in the capital but continues to embody the bright artistic traditions of the Polesie area.

The creative heritage of Victor Kazachenko (1918-1998) and Valentin Krylov (1929-2001) has also enriched the Gomel Region's pic-

torial art, as have works by Akim Shevchenko (1902-1980), Vladimir Rykalin (1929-1992), Oleg Petrov (1934-1998) and Victor Zhiltsov (1940-2001). Boris Zvinagrodsky (1896-1982) — a master of landscape art and an authoritative teacher — has also connected his life with the Gomel Region for many years.

Today's Gomel painting school boasts an expressive style and uniquely rich colours, mostly relying on open air painting; Honoured Figure of Belarus Dmitry Aleinik was one of the first to promote the technique. Even now, his works show his spiritual excitement and freshness of palette, reflecting the mood of nature with sincere grandeur. He reaches out to us, helping us to understand our world at a deeper level. His concord with nature, penetrating understanding and ability to delicately transfer his feelings and impressions into his work set him apart. He has inspired such artists as Nikolay Kazakevich and Robert Landarsky, whose works at the exhibition in Minsk are also distinctive and rich in both palette and content.

Gomel painters Gennady Gavoroka, Anatoly Otchik and Valen-



Image becomes symbolic

tin Pakatashkin, as well as sculptor Dmitry Popov, have joined Muzyr painters Piotr Zakharov, Valery Sidorkin and Nikolay Dubrov in presenting works which explore the topic of Chernobyl. The abstract canvases of Vitaly Denisenko are mysterious and dramatic while Andrey Krylov seeks out new images. The exhibition also features the monumental and decorative-and-park sculptures of Dmitry Pop-

ov, Valery Kozlovsky, Alexander Kamarzin, Vyacheslav Dalgov and Vladimir Andrianov, combining tradition and innovation.

The last such exhibition of works by Gomel Region artists was hosted by the Palace of Arts 12 years ago, entitled *Eternal Horizons from Polesie* — exploring the richness of those marshlands. That unique landscape continues to dominate most Gomel Region artists' works, including those who prefer still-life painting. We see this in the paintings of Valentin Yegorov, Valentin Pakatashkin, Leonid Kirianov, Lyubov Stepanova, Piotr Fei, Nikolay Kukharevich, Victor Baranov, Alexander Gailovich, Alexander Kostyuchenko, Alexander Fedotov, Victor Landarsky, Nikolay Kulesh and Leonid Melnikov, as well as in the works of virtuoso watercolour artist Svetlana Kurashova.

Young Gomel painters offer us fresh imagery, an impetuous manner and expressive use of colour: recent Belarusian Union of Artist members Yuri Platonov, Sergey Ignatenko, Yelizaveta Ovchinnikova, Alla Klevzhyts and Natalia Chirkova. Of course, the interiors and facades of many public and cultural

buildings can't be imagined without the monumental frescoes, mosaics and stained-glass windows of Vladimir Yevtukhov, Vladimir Osipov and Valentina Demenchuk, or without tapestries by Larisa Zueva, Arseny Dvoronin and Irina Danilova.

Ceramic masters Piotr Fei, Vladimir Andrianov and Mikhail Kletskov are impressive in their originality of thinking and unexpected solutions, while Tatiana Otchik and Irina Danilova create unique moods through their batik works, which seem to radiate light and encourage contemplation. Piotr Zakharov and Vladimir Tikhonov also show great mastery in theatrical set design.

The Regional Art College greatly influences new talent in the Polesie area, annually organising artistic workshops and open air seminars, as well as collective, personal and exchange exhibitions.

Artists of the Gomel Region-2012 is showcasing around 80 talented members of the Belarusian Union of Artists, presenting over 300 works varied in their technique and content, ready to speak to all those who enter the Palace of Arts in Minsk.

Belarusfilm to present its project on the screen

In October, the national film studio will be shooting an action film entitled *Footprints of the Apostles, with Nesvizh, Bobruisk and Minsk among its locations*

Sergey Talibov is directing the project, which features Belarusian actors Veronica Plyashkevich, Pavel Khar-

lanchuk, Igor Sigov, Dmitry Mukhin, Oleg Garbuz and Tatiana Markhel.

Nesvizh Palace in Belarus is known primarily as the family estate of the Radziwill dukes, who owned it from the 16th century until the beginning of World War 2. Like any building with a rich past, its historical and cultural herit-

age is shrouded in secrets and myths. Among these is the legend of countless treasures belonging to the former owners being hidden somewhere underground. The story is set in Berlin under the Third Reich and Nesvizh in 1942, as a relic of the Radziwill family is sought: golden statues of the twelve Apostles.

Acquaintance promises to be quite interesting

Self-portrait by artist Valenty Vankovich on display at his family estate

A private collector suggested showing the little-known work by the master at Vankovich House-Museum. The self-portrait is a colour lithograph from the original painting; it is thought to have

been printed before 1840 and may have been created by the painter himself. While studying at Vilnius University, he attended classes with engraver Gotlib Kisling and even replicated his best canvases.

The self-portrait of the painter will be on display until the end of September, alongside various reproductions

of works by Valenty Vankovich at the museum; there are no originals in the master's motherland, although his legacy can be viewed in Poland, Lithuania, Russia and France.

After being on display at Vankovich House, the self-portrait will move to the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus.