

Entertainment beyond hockey

Minsk plans to entertain ice hockey fans not only with sporting events but with a retrospective of Belarusian avant-garde art from the last century and with museums staying open until midnight. In addition, Malevich's *Black Square* will transform into a puck during the opening ceremony.

By Lyudmila Minakova

Open air show and pictures on fences

One key cultural event during the ice hockey tournament is an exhibition of modern fine arts, entitled *Avant-gARTe: From Square to Object*. Manager Natalia Sharangovich tells us that the show is to feature pictures from the National Art Museum, the Contemporary Fine Arts Museum, Vitebsk's Centre of Modern Art and private collections, across three venues.

BelExpo National Exhibition Centre, in Pobeditel' Avenue, is to display pictures by Belarusian avant-garde artists from the last decade. In turn, the Contemporary Fine Arts Museum is to host a project entitled *A Hundred Years of Avant-garde*, devoted to such 20th century neo-conformist painters as Marc Chagall, Aleksanteri Ahola-Valo, Nadia Khodossievitch-Léger, Fernand Léger and Lyudmila Rusova.

Another part of the show is being exhibited in the open air: in Yakub Kolas Square. Reproductions of 16 pictures by modern Belarusian pictorial and graphic artists are being displayed for 24 hours. Those at BelExpo and the Modern Fine Arts Museum will be on show daily, from 11am to 9pm, throughout the World Ice Hockey Championship.

Minsk's theatres, artis-



Opening of the exhibition from series *Artist and City*

tic unions and the Philharmonic Orchestra have prepared special programmes for the entertainment of all during the forthcoming event. In particular, the Belarusian Union of Artists will launch its *Arena-Belart* sport-themed exhibition at the Palace of Arts (running from April 30th until May 15th). Uniting around a thousand works by Belarusian artists, the grand event aims to promote a wider appreciation of domestic art. Around 100 reproductions from the *Belarus' Heritage* photo-album, by journalists Alexander Alexeev and Oleg Lukashevich, are to be placed on the railings around Chelyuskintsev Park, providing another venue for public admiration.

Ballet, break-dance and folk...

Minsk's City Executive Committee has announced three hospitality zones during the Ice Hockey World Championship: near the Palace of Sports, outside Minsk's Ice Palace and around the Student Village. Each will boast a selection of cultural-entertainment events and there will be a handicrafts town near the Palace of Arts — gathering over a hundred of Belarus' most skilled craftsmen. A roofed stage is being installed, to host entertainment from 10am to 3am, on the championship's opening day, and during the finals and semi-finals. On the remaining days, retro-hits, jazz and folk songs are to be performed there from 10am to midnight.



Preparation of the exposition

Entertainment at the Student Village will mostly be aimed at youngsters, featuring popular bands and solo artists, from midday to 5pm. Belarusian, Russian and European songs and dance are on the programme, including performances by *Nerush* and *Gastinets* folk bands, the Youth Pop Theatre's ballet and the Belarusian national break-dance team. Meanwhile, the leading Belarusian cover-bands and DJs are to entertain Village guests from 5pm to 3am.

Those coming to Minsk's Ice Palace will be able to watch *Pesnyary*, *Chisty Golos* and *Tyani-Tolkay* (all vocal bands) in addition to the wonderful *Khoroshki* folk dance group, *Sonorus Capella* and other performers.

Short ceremony

The Ice Hockey World Championship's opening ceremony, on May 9th, is only permitted to last 15 minutes, so dancing and singing will take place on stage (close to the ice arena) during the ice hockey players' 'warm up'.

The opening ceremony is to start at 8.30pm, with a 3D installation. Chief Director Vyacheslav Panin's idea is to show works by Marc Chagall and Kazimir Malevich, with the latter's *Black Square* transforming into a black puck flying across Belarus, showing our country's cultural and historical sights. Afterwards, a map of Belarus will appear, with the image expanding to encompass the state flags of all participating nations.

The championship's mas-

cot — Volat — will then enter the arena, carrying a Belarusian flag, to the accompaniment of Nikolay Gusovsky's *Song of the Auroch*. Afterwards, 16 pairs of ice hockey players are to enter, representing the participating teams: a 'red' player (as seen on the championship's logo) will carry a plaque bearing the name of his country, while one dressed in national uniform will carry their state flag. After the Belarusian anthem is performed, the presidents of the Belarusian Ice Hockey Federation and the International Ice Hockey Federation are to deliver welcome speeches.

Though the opening ceremony is short, it is certain to leave an admirable impression and heighten anticipation for the tournament ahead.

Interesting exhibits on airfield

By Yuri Pimenov

One place of interest for visitors to the IIHF World Championship 2014 is the Museum of Aviation Technics in Borovaya. The Deputy Chairman of the Central Council of Volunteer Association for Assistance to Army, Air Force and Navy of Belarus, Vladimir Seroshtan, expressed his opinion.

"We are ready to receive everyone at the museum, including guests of the 2014 IIHF World Championship," Mr. Seroshtan said. The Borovaya museum is growing in popularity. More visitors, including children are coming here. The exposition contains a range of aircraft, including the Yak-40 with works number 9620748, which was produced by the Saratov Aviation



View of the Museum of Aviation Technics in Borovaya

Plant in 1976. This aircraft was used by a range of aviation organisations like Belavia and Latvian Airlines. In Latvia it was used for the transportation of statesmen. In 2000, the Yak-40 was used for the benefit of the Belarusian government, including for the prime minister who flew on it.

Another notable aircraft is the MiG-15UTI. In 1968, Yuri Gagarin crashed in such an aircraft. The museum also has many military models from the well-known KB range, named in honour of Artem Mikoyan, and Mikhail Gurevich (MiG) and the native of Belarus Pavel Sukhoi (Su).

Everything ready for the holidays

Tourists invited to Bulbash Fest during 2014 IIHF World Championship

The festival of Belarusian national culture will take place in the Silichi Ski Resort on May 18th. Visitors will be invited to a tasting room where they will be able to try a variety of potato dishes, lard seasoned with garlic, horseradish or cucumbers, jellied meat, sausages, kvass, birch juice, barley kissel and many more. They will be able to take part in a draniki eating contest and a Belarusian cuisine master class will be organised for tourists.

Visitors will also see history re-enactment shows, as well as a Bulbash dedication ceremony and

Tereshka's wedding rite. A theatrical performance will be prepared for children. There will also be master classes educating visitors about Belarusian customs and dances, as well as singing and sports contests.

A children's playground will be organised, and visitors will be able to chill out at a special leisure area and enjoy a picnic whilst listening to Belarusian traditional music. An avenue full of artisans and craftsmen and a photo-zone will be located nearby. Visitors will be taught to make clay pots, to weave various items from straw and to make home talismans. Souvenirs and folk art items will be available at the trade fair of Belarusian goods.