

## AFTER DARK

## Under the Hammer at ArtEast



Alzheimer & Gray partner Adam Mycyk and ArtEast consultant Ivan Hryhoryev cuddle up with Vladimir Illyich.

By PETER BEJGER

Photos by Viktor Marushchenko

**M**IR! TRUD! MAI! Yes, comrades, another revolutionary holiday rolled around and that notorious agent provocateur Constance Uzwyshyn held the second annual Ukrainian Socialist Realism auction at her ArtEast Gallery on the evening of May 1.

The cream of Kyiv's reactionary foreign bourgeoisie (plus a few imperialist running dogs) bid enthusiastically for almost 100 classic works produced by the sweat of painters' brows. The guest auctioneers – Alzheimer &



An enthusiastic Emil Baran of the Canadian Embassy makes sure he gets surplus value for his bid.

Gray partner Adam Mycyk and your very own After Dark correspondent and TWG/Burson-Marsteller consultant Peter Bejger – maintained strict discipline among the collective.

In classic Marxist style, the state-as-a-patron has withered away and now the invisible hand of the market places a true value on the splendid canvases and sculpture on offer.

All camping aside, Uzwyshyn presented a stunning collection of lush landscapes, genre painting and portraits whose beauty and poignancy transcend any absurd ideological tenets. Proceeds from the auction will go to the artists and their families as well as for the reconstruction of a garden behind ArtEast's premises, a historic spot once celebrated in verse by Russian poet Boris Pasternak.



ArtEast's Constance Uzwyshyn offered drinks to the crowd.



Richard and Robyn Millman commune with the Lenin twins.



The ArtEast gang of three celebrates the sugar-beet harvest.

We've got the hammer, do we need the sickle? Auctioneer Peter Bejger is most impressed with fellow auctioneer Adam Mycyk's tool.



Painting No 15 'Summer Day' and lovely ArtEast manager went down a storm, spring in the air for sure

