

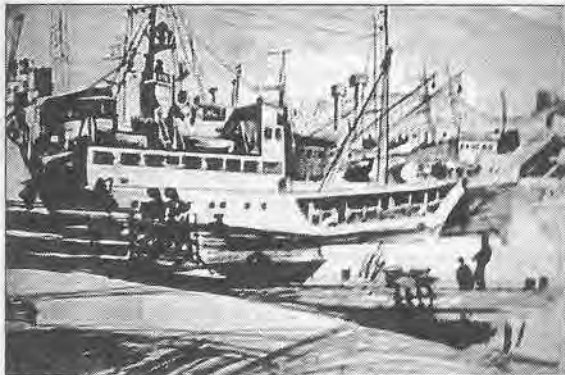
GALLERY

Paintings by Viktor Zaretsky (1925-1990). ArtEast Gallery. Through Sept. 27. Grifon Gallery. Through Sept. 19.

This week, works by Viktor Zaretsky, Ukraine's renowned modernist, considered by some critics to be a Ukrainian Gustav Klimt, will be featured at two simultaneous exhibits at different galleries.

Start at the Grifon, with paintings by Zaretsky and his wife, Alla Horska, from their son's and granddaughter's private collection. The centerpiece of the exhibit is "Bright Memory," Zaretsky's double portrait of Horska and himself. Horska, an artist and activist during Ukraine's 1960's nationalist movement and famous dissident, is thought to have been murdered by the KGB in 1970. In the portrait, her open, smiling face is painted in light pastel hues, while Zaretsky's half-profile is dark with pain and yearning for his wife. On Sept. 18 at 5 p.m. Grifon will feature an evening in memory of the two painters.

The ArtEast exhibit contains less famous works by Zaretsky: several mild landscapes, sketches and numerous portraits. But these are the only ones that are not in museums or private collections, and they are available for sale. The most impressive work is an ordinary Soviet-era scene of park cleaners burning leaves. But the red-orange color palette, sketchy female figures and the flames of a giant bonfire bring up associations with some ancient fire-worship ritual.



A sketch by Viktor Zaretsky on display at ArtEast.