

ART AUCTION

In memory of Lenin's grand failed experiment, ARTEast is holding a gala auction of some of Ukraine's best Socialist Realism. All year, they have been scouring the countryside for good examples of the style that monopolized Soviet art since Gorky announced its inception in the early 1930s.

Don't expect a monolithic collection placed on the block, though. While Soviet artists never lapsed into the dreaded Formalism, Sots Realism is actually far more diverse than most Westerners were propagandized to

believe. Actually, Soviet artists received excellent classical training and many people find their style to be more palatable than the direction art in the West has taken during the last half century.

And, it's a good time to buy, as Sots Realism is gaining in popularity. Currently, Westerners are discovering it to be relatively cheap and professional. In Ukraine, nostalgia is rapidly becoming big business.

The \$20 entrance fee doesn't just get you in the door. Everyone in attendance

gets a free book with biographies of the artists listing their work for sale and all the vodka and Ukrainian food you can eat. Paintings come with a letter of authenticity. Registration is limited to the first 70 guests, and must be completed by 1 p.m. on Nov. 6. Preview Nov. 4 and 5, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. If you can't make it, you can still place bids on the Internet, at www.arteast.org.

82nd Anniversary of the Great Socialist Revolution Auction. ARTEast. Nov. 6. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$20.