

Serhiy Hryhor'yev (1910-1988)

Serhiy Hryhor'yev is considered one of the most important artists of the former Soviet Union and his name is synonymous with the Socialist Realism period, during which he created both genre and thematic works. Many of these works, now on display at Kyiv's ARTEast gallery, are based on the classical composition found in Ukrainian and Russian academic schools since the beginning of the twentieth century.

His artistic process always began with preparatory sketches from live models, many of which are actually more interesting than the finalised painting, for example, the well-known sketch for the painting *Second Session* (1960)

Hryhor'yev usually tried to depict the realities of Soviet life, the emotions and energies of the people who lived in this society, full of contradictions and difficulties; he wanted to illustrate the great

changes they were going through. While usually avoiding "thematic" paintings, Hryhor'yev was interested in working on subjects which were of relevance for people of many different political and ideological backgrounds. He is acknowledged mostly for his paintings and drawings of children, landscapes and portraits.

Hryhor'yev was born in 1910, in Luhans'k, Eastern Ukraine and having graduated in 1926 from Zaporizhzhya Art Professional School and then in 1932 from the Kyiv State Institute of Art, he was granted many awards, and showed his works in over 140 exhibitions in the Soviet Union and further abroad, during his long and fruitful career. The last exhibition before his death in 1998 was a solo show, called *The Bathers*, at the Union of Artists, in Kyiv, 1996 and he achieved international recognition for his works exhibited in Canada, Germany, China, India and the Middle

East. He was made a member of the prestigious USSR Academy of Arts and was honoured with some of the highest Soviet awards like the People's Artist of the USSR (1974).

Many of his works are now held in museums and private collections around the world, as far apart as Japan and Bulgaria. ARTEast is grateful to the Hryhor'yev family and is honoured to represent his estate.

The Serhiy Hryhor'yev exhibition is on until 15 May at ARTEast gallery
Open daily from 11.00 to 19.00
13 Reytars'ka St.
tel/fax: 229-6552
e-mail: art@arteast.kiev.ua
<http://www.arteast.org>



Serhiy Hryhor'yev won acclaim, both home and abroad, for his Socialist Realism works



Morning at the Lake, 1974



Girl, 1974



Sketch, 'Man', 1959



Sketch, 1960



Workers, 1950s

Soviet Realist Master Serhiy Hryhor'yev

Portraits by Serhiy Hryhor'yev
ARTEast Gallery,
April 25 - May 15

ARTEast is proud to present an exhibition of master Socialist Realist painter Serhiy Hryhor'yev (1910-1988) from April 25 to May 15. Hryhor'yev belonged to the generation of Ukrainian artists whose art marked the start and development of the Soviet Union and his paintings depict many different points and trends in Ukraine's 20th century history. His monumental creations are filled both with emotional perception and a deep understanding of the reality of the period, illustrating World War II, collectivisation, heroism of the woman etc. ARTEast's exhibition will focus on Hryhor'yev's portraits, which have had less exposure than his other works; in these he tried to underline the main features of a subject, through which the character of the person could be discerned. For further information on this and other upcoming exhibitions, please call ARTEast on 229-6552.



Hryhor'yev: Sketch, 1966