

AmCham Together With ARTEast Gallery Open New Exhibition

On Thursday, March 22, Iryna Tryhub from ARTEast formerly welcomed AmCham Members and their guests to the opening of the latest art exhibition in the American Chamber of Commerce offices. The series of exhibitions organized by ARTEast is intended to bring awareness to its ARTS (Art Rental or To Own Scheme) program, aimed at the corporate client who wants to decorate his office space with original Ukrainian works of art.

To commemorate spring, ARTEast chose the title "Spring and Love" for its latest exhibition, which is made up of artists who are married to one another. The idea behind the choice in collections is to examine if partners have an influence over one another in their styles, and whether or not their relationship is reflected in any way in their artwork. Each office was decorated with a couple's works featuring the artists: Olena Pryduvalova and Oleksiy Apollonov, Halyna Hryhor'yeva and Oleksandr Ahafonov, and Maryna Skuhareva and Oleh Tistol.

Olena Pryduvalova's various combinations of bright colors and juicy tones make an immediate impact on their viewer, and doing so enhance any premises. Her distinguished style has been highly acclaimed by critics, winning her several awards including first prize at the Great Ukrainian Women Artists 98 Exhibition. Well over 70 pieces of her work have been sold in the last 3 years. She uses watercolors, gouaches and mixed tech-

niques in her works, as does her husband Oleksiy Apollonov. Another similarity in the two artists' works is the vibrant colors they choose to express themselves with. "Color is important in my work, because color represents life itself", says Apollonov. This, however, is where the similarities end. Pryduvalova's still lives are created using a traditional Ukrainian style, while Apollonov's artworks are abstract and figurative.

The inimitable creative style of Halyna Hryhor'yeva has been noted for its calmness, warmth, and harmony, creating a cozy atmosphere in any setting. Her oil on canvas works are well known throughout the world, and her paintings have been exhibited in many countries. Her husband, Oleksandr Ahafonov, prefers to use watercolors in his works. His paintings are typically described as a symphony of color and shade, however, on this occasion his pastels in the work specially chosen for the exhibition reveal a similar warmth and harmony complimenting that of his wife's.

The works by Maryna Skuhareva in the exhibition are united by a theme of birds. On her canvases, she uses elements of embroidery to bring these creatures to life. This is a typical trademark in many of her works, easily dis-



Iryna Tryhub from ARTEast welcomes guests

tinguishing them as a "Skuharyeva". Oleh Tistol's works are extremely different. Although likewise using oil on canvas, he works within the traditional trends of painting, graphics and photography. He invents national stereotypes of the beautiful, keeping to the principles of Ukrainian baroque, and in the exhibition, his works can be described as graphical representations of the monumental. Oleh Tistol also has exhibited and sold his works in many countries.

The Spring and Love art exhibition will continue till May 22, and all Members are invited to the American Chamber of Commerce offices to view the works of these well-known Ukrainian artists. ■