

Artwork that Bridges Two Eras

Beginning June 6, 2002, AmCham offices opened its doors to all those interested in art and who wish to enjoy the enlightening experience of discovering new names in the world of art and their art work. Through August 7 AmCham will be hosting a new art exhibit, which, as usual, will be organized, in conjunction with the ArtEast gallery. The works of the late Matviy Kohan-Shats will be on display.

Matviy Kohan-Shats was born on November 7, 1911, to a family of actors in Mohyliv-Podilskyi, Vinnytsya region. He began his professional work as an artist in Odesa in 1933. He completed his studies in art at the Kyiv State Institute under the instruction of Professor Shovkunenko.

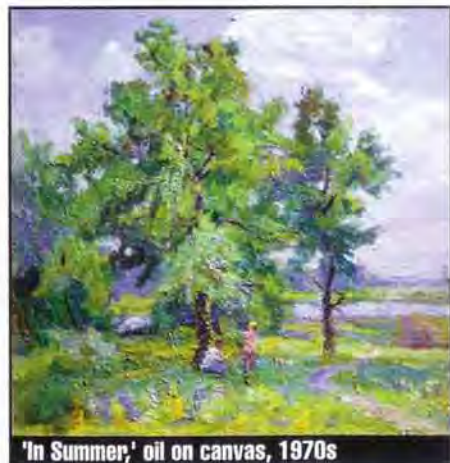
Kohan-Shats's works were widely recognized, and starting in 1939 his paintings began to be included in state-organized art exhibits. His art was regularly displayed at the State Touring Exhibits. In 1947, he was

elected a Member of the Union of Artists of the USSR. During World War II, he was drafted into the Soviet Army, but after the war he returned to painting.

Matviy Kohan-Shats painted landscapes. Despite the obvious hardships of Soviet life, which were especially felt in Ukraine, these depictions of villages and vast wheat fields display optimism rarely associated with the Stalinist and Cold War eras. He is an artist whose work bridges the gap between Soviet Ukraine and post-impressionist painters.

Today, his paintings are displayed in museums and private collections in Ukraine and abroad, particularly in Italy, France, and Japan.

For many artists living and working behind the 'iron curtain,' the end of communist rule signified the ushering in of a new era of art. This newly found freedom has made it possible for ArtEast to open art exhibits of the late Matviy Kohan-Shats's work, including fourteen signed oil paintings.



'In Summer,' oil on canvas, 1970s

We look forward to seeing you in the American Chamber of Commerce of Ukraine to honor this artist's great passion for beauty and life! ■

By Daria Pirogova