

# When the Act of Seeing Becomes Magical

Starting October 4 and running through November 15, ARTEast gallery in association with AmCham invites you to enjoy David Sharashidze's, one of Kyiv's most popular artists, art at their next exhibition, which will be held at the AmCham offices. Georgians, though often settling in places far from their motherland, traditionally hold tightly to their roots by preserving their traditions, customs, language, and even way of life. Because of this, all of Sharashidze's paintings have an unmistakably unique Georgian feel to them. It's not just the colors, which are as bright as the Georgian countryside, or the faces or the architecture, but it's the whole composition that brings this flavor to Sharashidze's work. This aspect is very different from what we see in "northern" paintings.

David does not only paint but has a way of bringing his works to life. His versatile talent came to light early in his life, when David, then a student of the philological department of the Tbilisi State University, became interested in photography and

began, on his own, to study the laws of composition and perspective. At that time, the art of photography was more advanced in Baltic countries, so David headed to Vilnius. There, while improving his photography skills, he started painting and designing interiors. He often traveled from Vilnius to Moscow and finally moved to Kyiv, eight years ago.

Sharashidze's inspiration comes from his background. He was born into a Georgian family and was raised in his grandfather's stately home. His vivid images come from his memories.

David loves the color red and Georgian fruits. "Red is everywhere," he says, "in the red wine, in oranges and pomegranates, but also in lemon and pear juices." Hence, it is the color and vibrancy of David's decorative canvases, which first strike the viewer. David pays great attention to detail and is inspired by the beauty of trivial things: everyday experiences, a cup of coffee in the morning, a woman reading a book, fruit on the table, interiors, buildings, and cities. "I do not paint



'Interior with Sofa and Painting,' 2002

from life, that is why I consider the line to be relative – it is primitive and refined. The most important thing in an image is the spirit of peace and harmony," says David.

David's artwork has traveled extensively and has been displayed in group and solo exhibitions in Russia, Spain, the USA, Germany, France, Scotland, and, of course, Ukraine.

By Daria Pirogova