

SOVIET AND RUSSIAN REALISM

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# ARTISTIC SEARCH FOR PERFECTION



*Alexander Ilyich Fomkin*    25 x 21    *Phloxes*

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## LAZARE GALLERY

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Known for its elegant palette, evocative subjects, and technical virtuosity, Russian Realism has become increasingly prized by art historians, collectors and investors who recognize its significance as one of the most important movements of the twentieth century. No where is this appreciation more apparent than Lazare Gallery, where Russian Realism experts John and Kathy Wurdeman showcase a remarkable inventory of over a thousand masterworks by some of Russia's most influential artists.



*Olga Svetlechnaya*

19 x 24

*The River*

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“I have visited most of the finer galleries in the United States. I have never seen so many high quality paintings in one art gallery as I have in Lazare Gallery,”

– Denis Chernyshov  
*Curator and  
Hudson River School Expert*

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# GRACIOUS ENVIRONMENT

A true art destination, Lazare Gallery was purposefully housed away from the major art centers in the bucolic setting of historic Charles City County near Williamsburg, Virginia. Located on the banks of the James River, the 8,200 square foot gallery offers a sanctuary for novice and seasoned collectors alike as the picturesque environment harks back to the pre-Russian Revolution patron estates frequented by the great Russian artists and their collectors. An educated and personable staff share their knowledge readily in this supremely comfortable setting. Guests may arrive by boat, docking at the waterfront gallery, or by the secluded tree-lined private drive. A guest house overlooking a peaceful pond entertains collectors from around the world to stay and savor this uniquely relaxing, soul-enriching experience of Russian Realism at its finest.



Vyacheslav Zabelin

32 x 36

Warm Evening

“Owing to unique access to finer paintings, together with Lazare Gallery’s acquisition philosophy that only superior artistic quality is of true importance, the collection often stuns first-time visitors.”

– Peter Wallace

*Russian Art Collector, Gallery Owner*



Gennady Korolev

26 x 18

Cottage

*Right – Interior view of Lazare Gallery  
Below – View from James River*



L A Z A R E G A L L E R Y . C O M

## RICH HISTORY

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Born of the rigorous, old-world academic training emphasized by the Soviet system, Russian Realism celebrates both a rich cultural heritage and traditional artistic skill. After two hundred years as the style of choice, realism was sidelined after the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917 as avant-garde artists demanded a break with the past, forcing many traditional artists to flee the country. Taste reversed again in the early 1930s when Joseph Stalin set forth to illustrate the greatness of Russian society by way of its superior culture, underwriting the arts through classical training institutes such as the Surikov State Academic Institute of Art in Moscow and the Repin State Academic Institute in St. Petersburg. Strongly influenced by the example of the 19th century French academy, the most honored artists became professors at these intense, competitive academies, passing down consummate technical skills of expressive realism that were in direct opposition to more conceptual and abstract trends in the west. With such dedicated focus, these Soviet artists and their students created realist genre paintings of exceptional quality and enduring relevance, a lineage of excellence continued today.

*Igor Raevitch*

28x 40

*Tug Boat*



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The Russian Realist School did not reject intensive training but used it as a necessary step toward developing superior artistic technical deftness, expressing truth faithfully, selflessly and with the highest distinctive honesty.

– John Wurdeman

*Russian Art Collector, Gallery Owner*

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*Tsvetlana Smirnova*

28 x 35

*Bathing*

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“In my pedagogical work, I have attempted to help facilitate my students to find their own voice and for them to understand their souls, and help those souls create, in an unrepeatable language.”

– Vyacheaslav Zabelin,

*Artist, Surikov Institute Professor*

*Honored Artist of the Russian Federation*

*Honored Worker of Arts*

*Former Head of Moscow Union of Artists*

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## UNCOMMON ACCESS

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Lazare Gallery is distinguished by its singular access to the very best Russian works, facilitated by their close relationship with the Surikov Institute in Moscow. As the only American to graduate from this renowned art school, Jonathan Wurdeman introduced the tightly-knit community of accomplished Russian professors, noteworthy contemporary artists, and heirs of recognized masters to his parents, owners of Lazare Gallery. These knowledgeable insiders open the doors of private studios and collections, many never before seen by foreigners, to hand-select only the most outstanding artists for invitation to the gallery. Then, after navigating extensive governmental regulations, only a small number of the very best works are vetted into the collection, resulting in a distinctly elevated level of quality rarely seen outside Russia.

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“I am 68 years old and until now never has my family worked with a gallery that purchased only our finest works. Many galleries want to represent our name and desire what we will sell them for the least amount of money. Lazare Gallery recognizes and believes in distinctive quality.”

– Mikhail Kugach

*Artist, former Chairman of the Russian Artist Union, former Director of the Moscow Art Institute, former President of the Moscow River School, and son of artist Yuri Kugach*

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L A Z A R E G A L L E R Y . C O M



*Nikita Fedosov*

12 x 17

*Spring Light*

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“During the last few years our records indicate that Lazare Gallery has removed a larger number of finer quality paintings from Russia than any other gallery in the world.”

– Anna Yurievna Mudrova

*Ministry of Culture, Moscow, February 2006*

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*Yuri Kugach*

15 x 12

*Thoughtful Woman...*



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“The main thing is poetry. This is the essence of all my work. A real artist doesn’t paint what he sees. He paints what he wants to see. Those who want to see dirt, see dirt.”

– Yuri Kugach

*Artist, Surikov Institute Professor  
Academician, People’s Artist of the USSR  
USSR State Prize, Repin State Prize,  
Stalin Prize, 1940 & 1950*

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## ACCLAIMED ARTISTS

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Tradition runs deep among the intertwined network of artists who trained and taught at the Surikov Institute over the past century, with a genealogy of greatness passed down from master to student. The influence of legendary artists such as Vyacheslav Zabelin (1935–2001), Yuri Kugach (1917–present), Nikita Fedosov (1939–1992), and Nikolai Sergeev (1908–1989) continue to resonate in the work of the current generation of artists like Nikolai Dubovik (b. 1960), Nikolai Kozlov (b. 1947), and Alexy Sukhovetsky (b. 1953). Their shared philosophy preserves an emphasis on the serious development of drawing, composition, and color harmonies informed by a respect for the art of centuries past. Held in the highest esteem by not only their countrymen but also by museums and collectors internationally, these highly-acclaimed artists represent a connection to the past unparalleled in the twentieth century. Russian Realism, which included the atmospheric Moscow River School, plein air paintings, and studio works, has become the subject of growing scholarship, exhibition, and connoisseurship as this unbroken chain of methodology, technique, and inspiration has stood the test of time.



Nikolai Dubovik

19 x 15

Windy Day

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“When I first became aware of the artwork coming out of Russia in 1998, I shifted the direction of my gallery and began collecting Russian work. I trusted my eyes. Art dealers and collectors dream to early on recognize a movement in time to acquire their master artist’s works. It’s a history making time for Russian art.”

– James Yarosh

*Russian Art Collector and Fine Art Dealer*

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Ilya Yatsenko

*The Dome of Rome Kliment Church*





Gavril Gorelov *Portrait of Doctor Pavlov*

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“I never invest in what I do not understand. The insights gleaned from the knowledgeable Lazare Gallery staff rationally justified my investing in finer Russian Realist paintings. As the expected rapid appreciation of my collection has been validated, it has become my primary ongoing investment.”

– Peter Wallace  
*Russian Art Collector, Gallery Owner*

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## INVESTMENT QUALITY

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With record sales and international interest, Russian art is undeniably hot; in fact, with auction sales through spring 2007 roughly double that of spring 2006, Russian art is the major auction houses fast-growing genre encouraging both Christies and Sotheby’s to open Moscow offices. Analyzing past trends of all classical realism schools such as the Impressionist, Hudson River and Barbizon, shows the same pattern of increasing demand and price appreciation that Russian Realism is presently experiencing. After an initial discovery decade of scholarship and preliminary collecting, the following decade brings



Nikolai Kozlov *24 x 20* *The Congealed Twilight*



Mikhail Kugach *28 x 47* *Triptych- Part 3*

more intensive acquisition activity with museum and gallery exhibitions, media attention, books, major auctions, and collecting at all levels. By the third decade, prices soar for the finest quality works by the most famous practitioners of the school. Positioned in the middle of this

trajectory, Russian Realism is poised to become an even more important part of the international market. Interestingly, current western auction offerings are mostly works by Russian-born artists who fled and worked abroad; a rare opportunity exists as many of the artists most revered in their own homeland never left the country and thus their works are largely unknown at western sale. Following the lead of the new Russian wealth, whose billionaires are acquiring fine Russian artwork in volume, savvy investors now have the opportunity to scoop museum-quality works before the full awareness of this school's importance raises prices.



*Alexey Sukhovetsky* 23 x 31 *Sailboat*



*Andre Smirnov* 38 x 36 *Red Summer*



*M. Abakumov* *May at the Monastery Gates*



*Yuri Greshenko* 30 x 36 *Neglected Mill*

# UNCONVENTIONAL PERSPECTIVE NOTEWORTHY OPPORTUNITY



*Gennady Pasko 20 x 28 Floating on the Ice on Oka River*

The allure of Russian Realism is as timeless as its rich heritage, filled with color and emotion. A legacy of work rarely seen in the United States, these significant paintings — and the spectacular setting of Lazare Gallery — offer an experience not to be missed.



*Sergey Ponomarev Plums*



*Stanislav Brusilov 10 x 14 Summertime*



*John Wurdeman V 24 x 20 The Holy Cathedral of Bodbe*



*Olga Belakovskya 22 x 24 Sunflowers in Basket*



## LAZARE GALLERY

MOSCOW SCHOOL OF RUSSIAN REALISM

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