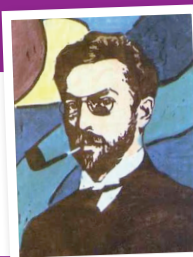


ART



“Beautiful is what is produced by the inner need,
what springs from the soul”

Wassily Kandinsky

The Jubilee Auction of Leonid Shishkin Gallery in Moscow

The oldest Muscovite auction house and gallery, Leonid Shishkin, is holding its Jubilee sale on the 23rd of April. The sale features important works of 19th and 20th century Russian Art, including paintings by Isaak Levitan, Mikhail Larionov and Pyotr Konchalovsky. This is a much anticipated auction both for Russian and international collectors and connoisseurs of Russian art.

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Leonid Shishkin, collector, auctioneer and founder of Shishkin Gallery that opened in Moscow in 1989



Pyotr Konchalovsky, *Woman on the Bank of the River*, 1922 estimate 18-24 million rubles / 390,000 - 520,000 GBP

Leonid Shishkin Gallery of Moscow is holding its most important sale of Russian art so far. The works by some of the most famous Russian artists will be presented at the auction, such as Isaak Levitan, Vasily Polenov, Konstantin Makovsky as well as stars of the Russian avant-garde Pyotr Konchalovsky, Mikhail Larionov and Alexander Shevchenko. The top-lot is a monumental work by painter from the “Jack of Diamonds” group, Pyotr Konchalovsky “*Woman on the Bank of the River*” (estimate 18–24 million rubles). This so called “Russian Cezannist” painting was executed in summer 1922, when the artist resided in Krylatskoe village by Moscow. During that period he continued working on a series of “bathings”, to which this particular work belongs. The is of excellent provenance directly from the artist’s family, it was exhibited in 1923 and was included in the monograph publication on Konchalovsky.

An interesting work by yet another outstanding member of the “Jack of Diamond” group – Alexander

Shevchenko- will be presented at the sale. A small canvas “*Landscape with Trees and a Female Figure*” (1920) has an estimate of 1.2–1.5 million rubles. Another master of the Russian avant-garde, founder of his personal system of painting named “rayonism”, Mikhail Larionov, is represented at the auction by a work dating to 1920s. “*Still Life with Flowers and a Lemon*” is expected to be sold for 2.8–3.3 million rubles.

The sanguine portrait of Larionov by another outstanding master of the early 20th century – Alexander Yakovlev will also appear at the auction (estimate 900 000–1.2 million rubles). Talking about artists of the Silver Age one should note the excellent graphic works by Alexander Benois, Konstantin Somov, Zinaida Serebryakova, Boris Kustodiev and Konstantin Bogaeysky.

“*Mill*” (estimate 10–12 million rubles). It comes from a well-known Moscow collection of Yuli Nevzorov and was acquired at the artist’s posthumous exhibition. The work belongs to the series of “*Mills*” by Levitan and is a study for a painting which resides in the State Tretyakov Gallery and is familiar to experts from the exhibitions “*Isaak Levitan*” (State Tretyakov Gallery, 1938) and “*100 Anniversary of Association of Itinerant Art Exhibitions*” (State Tretyakov Gallery, 1971). As judged by the motive of the image, the landscape was executed in Plyos, at a small but rapid river Shokhonka, where the owners of the mills have built several dams. A work by a wonderful seascape painter Alexey Bogolyubov is undoubtedly one of the most important lots of the upcoming auction. Alexey Bogolyubov was an outstanding landscape painter of the second half of the 19th century and representative of academic school, who was strongly influenced by Ivan Aivazovsky.

Bogolyubov belongs to the much sought-after Russian painters and his seascape views often sold for over the million dollar mark at the leading international auctions.

For the first time ever, Leonid Shishkin Gallery presents at its auction the works by the soviet underground or the so-called “other art”, which flourished in 1970s but was rediscovered by the public only in post-perestroika years of the

1990s. There are three works in the catalogue by the nonconformist artists Vladimir Veisberg and Vladimir Yakovlev. Their provenance is the collection of Mikhail Krasnov (Geneva-Moscow) and they can be undoubtedly regarded as representative pieces of the artists.



Rudolf Frentz studio, *Assault on the Winter Palace* (estimate 1.5 - 1.8 million rubles / 32,000 - 39,000 GBP)

As part of the forthcoming auction at Leonid Shishkin Gallery, collectors will be presented with more than 20 works of the Russian realistic school of the late 19th and early 20th century. Among them there is a study by “the singer of Russian nature”: Isaak Levitan



Isaak Levitan, *Mill*, 1988 (estimate 10-12 million rubles / 217,000 - 260,000 GBP)



Alexander Deineka, *Spring*, 1948 (estimate 2.3 - 2.5 million rubles / 50,000 - 55,000 GBP)

“*The Beating of the Waves*” is dated to 1872 and was executed by the artist in Porto d’Anzio (estimate 8-10 million rubles / 173,000 - 217,000 GBP). Among the surging waves of the sea the artist depicted on the canvas the ruins of the Nero’s Palace. The painting was immediately acquired by the heir, Tsarevich Alexander Nikolaevich, future emperor Alexander III and was kept at the Tsarskoe Selo Palace. Later on, in the early 1930s, the painting among other items from the “private part” of the Alexandrovsky Palace was passed to the corporation “Hotel” and thereon sold abroad.

As part of the jubilee auction on the 23d of April the Gallery will also present a set of judaica from a private Moscow collection. The auction will present works of jewish art and objects of religious cult.

Shishkin Gallery was established by Leonid Shishkin in 1989 during the «perestroika» and is one of the first private galleries in Moscow. During its first decade, the main clients of the gallery were expatriates living in Moscow, foreign art dealers, and the gallery did also exhibit outside Russia. The first auction took place in 2000 and today Shishkin Gallery holds 3-4 exhibitions a year and an auction every month, specializing on 19th and 20th century Russian art. The auction will be broadcasted live at 23 April, at the Hotel Radisson Royal Moscow.