

FINDING MASTERS IN VAIL

Vail Fine Art offers masterful paintings by the Russian Impressionists

By Rosanna Turner

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First impressions are important. The impressionists who occupy Jim Tylich's Vail Fine Art Gallery desire to make an impact that lasts a lifetime.

After 22 years as the owner of the gallery, Tylich has developed an eye for impressionism, which invokes the artist's point of view through colorful oil paints and strong brush strokes. Since the 19th century, the style has spread around the globe. Tylich's own gallery has impressionist art that stretches from such far-flung places as Australia, Peru and Azerbaijan.



Vassiliy P. Kossenkov | "Dreams"
Oil on canvas 71" x 38"

Vail Fine Art Gallery

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Tylich's personal interest is Russian impressionism, characterized by underlying gray tones beneath bright colors that add depth to a scene. In the Russian style, a shirt that appears white in fact comprises a multitude of hues, reflecting the other colors in the painting. A rare acquisition for an art collector, Tylich has been able to purchase entire works of some Russian impressionists.

"Under the Communist system they (Russian artists) really couldn't buy or sell art. They sold a little, but not much," Tylich says. "An artist who painted 50 pieces a year, which is about normal for a major artist, they painted for 10 years straight without being able to sell very many at all. They would end up with 200 or 300 artworks in their home. This is unheard of anywhere else in the world."

Impressionism is the biggest selling group of art. Early Americans fell in love with the painting style when it was exported from Europe.

"Impressionism is one of the first things that touched American hearts, and much of the world, because it's based on beauty," Tylich says. "The beauty of a place, and then the impression of that scene, it was dolled up a little bit, colors a little better, a little softer, a little nicer ... they painted the good things in life."

This year the gallery will feature a wide array of painters and sculptors. Bunny Hanley, a sculptor from Montana, is an artist who explores the connection between women and horses in her work. Polish impressionist Voytek mixes colors together in unexpected ways, creating paintings that are deeply emotional. Armenian-born cubist Yuroz is not afraid to paint outside the lines, or with no lines at all, when making his abstracts. Impressionist Katie Dowling, who grew up in Vail and started painting when she

was 18, is a local favorite and conveys her memories of growing up in the mountains with visual flair. Angela Mia De La Vega and Tammy Bality, a duo of bronze sculptors who often collaborate, will display sculptures that "capture the beauty of children's awakening," says Tylich. Also Jerry Georgeff, an American impressionist known as "The Gourmet Artist," will invite others to watch him paint with exuberance while they savor his other talent: food.

When selecting paintings and sculptures for the gallery, Tylich searches for pieces that summon in him a strong reaction and exemplify his idea of a major work of art.

"I look for the impressionistic view of a very well-done scene that gives you emotion, beauty, and a remembrance of a place that exists," Tylich says.

With a passion for impressionism and a commitment to finding museum-quality art, Tylich aims to exhibit artists who aren't household names yet, but might be someday.



▲ Karp D. Voytek
"Into The Dream"
Oil on canvas 40" x 40"



◀ Bunny Hanley
"Escape" | Bronze, 21" x 19"



Katie Dowling | "Gold Reflections at Maroon Bells" | Oil on canvas 20" x 24"