Stozharov, Vladimir Fedorovich

1926 - 1973

Bathhouses

Oil on board
c 50 x 90cm
1964

Signed
PROVENANCE:

Collection of the family

LITERATURE:

Stozharov, Catalogue Raisonne, Moscow 2006, illustrated p. 54.

Vladimir Stozharov

Stozharov spent many summers touring villages in the far Russian north painting their fishing boats and simple wooden houses. The artist delighted in the simplicity of the life he found there and he befriended the people and collected their artifacts. This painting, Bathhouses, is a fine example of one of these northern studies which established Stozharov as the leading Russian landscape painter in the 1950's.
Two women in the headscarfs are depicted amidst the densely packed wooden huts and fishing boats. A sauna is steaming on the left hand side of the composition and the simple open wooden fishing boats are drawn up between thick banks of snow. Painted with Stozharov's distinctive thickly loaded brushstrokes a single blue garment draped over a wooden pole to dry provides a flash of colour.

Stozharov was born in Moscow in 1926. Like so many of the best Moscow artists of his generation (the Tkachev brothers and Geli Korzhev among them) he entered the Moscow Intermediate Art School before World War II. Stozharov was a student at the school from 1939 till 1945, in other words during his teen years; here he was taught by V.V.Pochitalov (an impressionist-influenced painter who was the school's guiding hand), A.P.Shorchev and P.T.Koshevoi. This was followed by six years of training, from 1945 to 1951, at Moscow's elite Surikov Institute, I Grabar, and S. Gerasimov where his professors and he also worked in the studio of the well-known realist G.K.Savitski (himself the son of one of the leading Itinerants). Stozharov began exhibiting in 1953 and took part in some 30 exhibitions in the next five years alone. He soon established himself as an outstanding figure. Together with the master of the older generation, Arkadi Plastov, Stozharov spearheaded the move to Russia country subjects among painters after the death of Stalin.

This move was broadly paralleled by the well-known "village prosc" movement in Russian literature. He specialized in provincial landscapes, especially of the Russian North, which he executed in a broad, vigorous manner, often using a characteristic wide, panoramic format. The peasants who appear in Stozharov's paintings are always rooted in the landscape: in stark contrast to much socialist realism, people are not portrayed as heroic masters of the Russian soil, but as its undemonstrative, yet time-honored, inhabitants. Stozharov was an enormous influence on his contemporaries.

The canvases of the painter have embodied his images about Russia, expressed admiration by the harmony of the environment, beauty and diversity of the old Russian architecture, people’s art and mode of life. The most of his paintings differs by the intensive color sounding, they are at the same time materialistic, decorative and poetic.
His honors include membership in the USSR Academy of Arts; and in 1968 a prestigious Repin Prize (the Russian State Prize for art). One man shows of his paintings were held in the Russian regions - in those Northern places such as Syktyvkar, Vologda, and Kalinin (Tver), where he liked to work - in 1974, and in Moscow in 1977. Today he is recognized as one of the classic figures in the history of twentieth century Russian realism.

His works are in more than 60 museums of USSR, including the Tretyakov Gallery and the Russian Museum in St. Petersburg. Many of Stozharov's works are in private collections in England, France, Spain, Japan, where he had several one-man shows, and in Germany.

He died in Moscow in 1973, not yet fifty years old.

A corresponding member of the Academy of Arts U.S.S.R., Honored Worker of Arts of RSFSR, Repin State Prize Winner of RSFSR, Vladimir F. Stozharov did not live long (from 1926 to 1973) but his art left the inimitable track.

From this childhood he loved the Russian nature with its high horizons, fields and hills. Many relatives live in the Kostroma Region. Besides Kostroma, Stozharov was in Calich, Novgorod, Pskov, Igarka, Turukhansk and many other towns and villages.

He received his primary art education at the Moscow secondary art school and in 1951 he graduated successfully from the State Surikov Art Institute Moscow, named after V.I. Surikov in Moscow. V.V.Pochitalov, D.K.Mochalski and G.K.Savitski were his professors.

Stozharov travelled a lot both in Russia and abroad. He was interested in out-of-the-way places of the country where relics of the past, architecture and bright human characters remained. 1946-1950 creative trips to Kostroma and Yaroslavl regions, 1952 Siberia- Baikal Sea, Issyk-Kul Sea, Irkutsk and Omsk. 1953 Enirey and Angara rivers. 1954 Kazakhstan- Virgin land. In 1960-s V.Stozharov started to travel around Russian North. He was interested in remote corners of the country where the original wooden buildings and uncommon characters were still preserved. He was fascinated by "white nights", bright sunsets, gloomy hovering clouds of northern skies and original architecture of the countryside, hence his wonderful pictures

Landscapes, still-lifes and genre are the central subjects of his creative work.

In 1961 Stozharov created the pictures Isady, River Crossing, Bread for the Country and in 1962 Galich, Fish Soup. In them the author tells about ordinary toiling people, kolkhozniks, and fishermen. Since the 1960s, the theme of the Russian North shows in Stozharov's creative work. He is fascinated with white nights and flaming sunsets, with rich verdure of grasses and unfathomable blueness of the sky.

In 1968 Vladimir Fedorovich Stozharov received the Repin State Prize of RSFSR. Stozharov was a master of the great coloristic talent. He has works devoted to Italy and France. In them, the artist gives much attention to color and seeks its intensive power.

Stozharov's paintings of life in old Russian towns and villages, together with his ambitious still-lifes of the implements and fruits of peasant life, each bearing a brief yet eloquent title (Bread, Kvas, or Linen), were of great significance to his fellow painters in the 1950s and 1960s. The return to peasant life, a life
romanticized, perhaps, but not falsely glorified or distorted, initiated by Stozharov was an idea taken up in the work of many of the leading figurative painters of the 1960s.

Stozharov’s creative work continued and developed, in many respects, after traditions of such artists as L.V. Turzhankiy, K.P. Yuoon and other painters of the Union of Russian Artists.

“The White Night”, “Pokrov”, housed in the State Russian Museum in St.Petersburg. The creative trips to Italy 1959, 1967, France 1960 and Romania 1972 brought a great many works. The picturesque and dramatic manner of the artist’s painting is quite original and distinguishing.

Since 1953 member of the USSR Union of Artists.

1953 -1973 permanent participant of Moscow, zonal, republican , All-Union and international art exhibitions.

1966 - participant of the international exhibition "Biennale di Venezia".

1967 - participant of a group exhibition in Moscow.

1969 - winner of the Academy silver medal.

1970 - participant of the sales/ exhibitions of works by Soviet artists in Japan (Nakomora Gallery) and Europe - Germany ( Nicolay and Sohn), France, England, Finland.

His works are in more than 80 museums in Russia and the former USSR, including the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow and the Russian Museum in St. Petersburg. Numerous works of Stozharov’s are in private collections in the USA, Germany, England, France, Spain, Japan and Korea, Finland.

Outline of Stozharov’s Life:

1926- Was born on January 3rd in Moscow, Bolshoi Karetny Lane (21 – 8).


1946-1950 Annual creative trips to Kostroma and Yaroslavl regions.

1952 Creative trip to Siberia — the Lake Baikal, cities of Irkutsk, Omsk and Isilkul together with the artist M. Artyukhin.

1953 Creative trip to the Yenisei and Angara rivers together with artist I. Sorokin.


Ruzbugino windmill», 1956, «Turukhansk», 1956


1959- First creative trip to Italy. Creation of: «Venice. Workers' block», «Collective farm pace-makers' arrival to the meeting», «Windmill in Grigorkovo».


1961- Creative trip to Kostroma and Yaroslavl regions with artists G. Daryin, F. Novotelnov, I. Popov, Y. Semenyuk. Creation of: «Rostov Yaroslavsky», «In Siberia», «Delivery of grain to the state stock. Putyatino».


1963- Creative trip to Arkhangelsk region with artists E. Zverkov and I. Popov. Creation of: «Autumn on the Pinega».


1965- Was conferred the title of the Honoured Art Worker of the RSFSR. Creative trip to Komi ASSR along the Vashka river with artists E. Zverkov and Y. Semenyuk. Creation of still life «Bratina (wooden wine bowl) with kvass» and pictures «Window platboards», «The first motor ship is coming».


1967- Was awarded a Silver Medal of the USSR


1970- Creative trip to Pskov, Novgorod, Yaroslavl, Kostroma and Vladimir regions with artists G. Daryin, Y. Semenyuk, V. Ulyanov. Creation of still lives «Romanov onion», «Birch bark buckets, rowanberry and black chokeberry», picture «Twilight»


1972- Trip to Romania with artist S.A. Torlopov and a group exhibition of the works of the RSFSR «Russian North» artists (Warsaw-Prague-Bratislava-Bucharest). Creative trip to Kostroma region. Creation of still lives «Kvass», «Antique fire-clay pitcher», «Tea with kalatchi (small padlock-shaped white loaves)», picture «October»

1973- Was elected a corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Arts. November 22nd Died in Moscow.

Museums that include works by Stozharov in their collections:

- Almaty, A. Kasteyev State Museum of Arts, Republic of Kazakhstan
• Arkhangelsk Regional Museum of Fine Arts
• Astana, Museum of Modern Art, Republic of Kazakhstan
• Astrakhan B.M. Kustodiyev State Picture Gallery
• Barnaul, State Art Museum of Altai Territory
• Belgorod State Museum of Arts
• Bendery, Republican A.V. Losev Picture Gallery, Pridnestrovie Moldavian Republic
• Bishkek, Kirghis Gapar Aytiev National Museum of Fine Arts
• Bryansk Regional Art Museum
• Cheboksary, Chuvash State Art museum
• Chelyabinsk Picture Gallery
• Chita Regional Art Museum
• Chuguyev I.E. Repin Memorial Art Museum, Ukraine
• Dankov Museum of Local Lore
• Dnepropetrovsk Art Museum, Ukraine
• Dolgoprudny Historical and Art Museum
• Donetsk Regional Art Museum, Ukraine
• Gorlovka Art Museum, Ukraine
• Irkutsk V.P. Sukachov Regional Art Museum
• Ivanovo Regional Art Museum
• Izhevsk, Udmurt Republican Museum of Fine Arts
• Kaliningrad Picture Gallery
• Kaluga Regional Art Museum
• Kazan, State Museum of Fine Arts of the Republic of Tatarstan
• Kemerovo Museum of Fine Arts
• Khabarovsk, Far Eastern Museum of Fine Arts
• Kherson A.A. Shovkunenko Regional Art Museum, Ukraine
• Khmelnitsk Regional Museum, Ukraine
• Kiev State Museum of Russian Art, Ukraine
• Kirov Vasnetsovy Regional Art Museum
• Klaipeda Picture Gallery, Lithuania
• Komsomolsk-on-Amur, Museum of Fine Arts
• Kostroma State Joint Art Museum
• Krasnodar F.A. Kovalenko Territorial Art Museum
• Krasnoyarsk V.I. Surikov Art Museum
• Kurgan Regional Art Museum
• Kursk A.A. Deyneka Regional Picture Gallery
• Lvov State Picture gallery, Ukraine
• Magadan Regional Museum of Local Lore
• Magnitogorski Picture Gallery
• Makhachkala, Daghestan Museum of Fine Arts
• Minsk, State Art Museum, Belarus
• Moscow, Tretyakov State Gallery
• Nizhni Tagil State Museum of Fine Arts
• Nizni Novgorod State Art Museum
• Norilsk Art Gallery
• Novokuznetsk Art Museum
• Novosibirsk Picture Gallery
• Omsk Vrubel Regional Museum of Fine Arts
- Orel Museum of Fine Arts
- Orenburg Regional Museum of Fine Arts
- Partenyevo, Literary and Art Museum, Kostroma Region
- Penza K.A. Savitsky Regional Picture Gallery
- Perm State Art Gallery
- Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Kamchatsky Regional Museum of Local Lore
- Petrozavodsk, Museum of Fine Arts of the Republic of Karelia
- Pskov State Joint Historical and Architectural Art Reserve Museum
- Raychikhinsk, Museum of Local Lore, Amur Region
- Rostov the Great, State Art Reserve Museum "Rostov Kremlin"
- Rostov-on-Don, Rostov Regional Museum of Fine Arts
- Ryazan Regional Art Museum
- Saint Petersburg, Russian State Museum
- Salsk, V.K. Nechitaylo Picture Gallery, Rostov Region
- Samara Regional Art Museum
- Saratov A.N. Radishchev State Art Museum
- Sevastopol M.P. Kirov Art Museum
- Simferopol Art Museum
- Smolensk State Reserve Museum
- Sochi Art Museum
- Stavropol Territorial Museum of Fine Arts
- Syktyvkar, National Gallery of the Republic of Komi
- Taganrog Picture Gallery
- Tambov Regional Picture Gallery
- Tashkent, State Museum of Uzbekistan
- Tomsk Regional Art Museum
- Tula Museum of Fine Arts
- Tver Regional Picture Gallery
- Tyumen Regional Museum of Fine Arts
- Ufa, Bashkortostan M.V. Nesterov State Art Museum
- Ugra Historical Museum, Smolensk Region
- Ulyanovsk Regional Art Museum
- Veliky Novgorod, Novgorod Historical and Architectural Reserve Museum
- Vladimir, State Vladimir-Suzdal Historical and Architectural Art Reserve Museum
- Vladivostok, Primorsky State Picture Gallery
- Volgograd Museum of Fine Arts
- Vologda Regional Picture Gallery
- Voronezh Regional Museum of Fine Arts
- Voskresenskoye, Picture Gallery, Branch of M.V. Nesterov Museum, Bashkortostan, Meleuz District
- Vyshny Volochok, Creative Activities House Academic Dacha
- Yakutsk, National Art Museum of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)
- Yaroslavl Art Museum
- Yerevan, State Picture Gallery, Armenia
- Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Regional Art Museum
- Zaporozhye Art Museum, Ukraine