

LIFE AND ART OF A PAINTER OLEKSANDR KANTSEROV

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Abstract: There is a number of well-known and hard-working artists in Polissya region. Even during the Soviet era, frescoes were painted, mosaics were laid out and tapestries were woven. Unfortunately, we don't know much about those painters who started painting in Zhytomyr during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Key Words: Landscape painter, Oleksandr Kantserov, Zhytomyr watercolourist, Polissya painters, Volyn painters.

There are a lot of things that are to be decided to explore the past. All these facts can be implemented in the future. All the time, humanity is accumulating the experience of generations that pass on to the next, without this we will not see any progress. Skillful and rational use of this experience, this invaluable information - is the continuity of generations.

We have looked through the activity of our artist O. Kantserov and the "analysis" of our landscapes. Nowadays this information could be very useful for students majoring in fine arts and students at children's art schools. And, of course, every story has origins. So, for the Zhytomyr region, one of the famous first-mover was Oleksandr Kantserov. We need discover more what culture was like in the 18th and 19th centuries, so this task combines many subcontracting tasks and is quite significant.

Future artist was born in the famous military city of Grozny in 1872, in the north of the Caucasus. There were magnificent and amazing landscapes that was the first step to improve the imagination. It was something that has the reflection -the well known artist Oleksandr Kantserov. Later, around the mid-70s of the 19th century the family moved to one of the oldest cities in Ukraine - picturesque Zhytomyr. In 1890, Oleksandr graduated and was sent to the St. Petersburg Military School. There he got acquainted with the collections of museums – he visited lots of modern painting exhibitions. There was the time when he had doubts about his choice.

In 1896 and 1897, Alexander was enlisted in the 125th Kursk Infantry Regiment, in Rivne. Fortunately, the duties of an adjutant of the 3rd Battalion allowed him to draw and paint. The dream of becoming an artist did not leave the young artist even when his health deteriorated. Alexander contracted a disease named tuberculosis. He regretfully resigned and went to St. Petersburg to study painting.

From 1896 Alexander Kantserov lived and studied in St. Petersburg, where he was a free student of the Academy of Arts. Konstantyn Kryzhytsky was a sincere admirer of A. Kuindzhi's work, his friend and one of the initiators of the founding of the A. I. Kuindzhi Society of Artists. It is possible that he introduced Kantserov to surroundings of this outstanding painter. Some influence of Kuindzhi, the desire to master the effective change, which is inherent in the color of the famous master - all this can be seen in the works of Kantserov "River Gorin" (1905), "Forest Kamyanka" (1910). His favorite subject is the Volyn landscape [1].

His works have been awarded the Kuindzhi Prize twice. Some of them: the landscapes "October", "River" and so on. Kantserov, by the way, repeatedly turned back to the image of a lonely house - a gatehouse, lost in the woods. Motives of this atmospheric picture can be observed in his other paintings.

In 1899, Kantserov's father, who understood his son's work, died. The financial situation of the family and the state of health of the artist himself became worse. This forced him to return to Zhytomyr. Here he immediately began to engage in teaching, besides the exhibition he arranged. He constantly sent his paintings to the annual exhibitions of the Royal Watercolorist Society. He is invited to cooperate by wealthy

entrepreneurs - brothers, Andriy and Mykhailo Durylyns. At their own expense, they sent Kantserov for an internship abroad [2].

Alexander visited the best European museums in Dresden, Munich, Geneva, Rome and Venice. He reviewed and studied the works of the world's most famous artists. The artist works hard, continues the tradition of "landscape-mood", which is characterized by immediacy in the depiction of real paintings of nature, emotionality, lyricism. Traveling through Lake Ladoga, The Dniester, The Horyn, he creates interesting compositions that can be thought of by looking at photos stored in the fund of the Zhytomyr Museum of Local Lore.

The Yalta period of the artist's work (1912) is a new landscape motives, many sketches, including marine ones, made on the outskirts of Yalta, which testify to the artist's high sense of light and air, give new shades to his work, it is paintings under the southern sun, which expanded the range of wizard solutions. His watercolors "Pribyi" and "Okolitsi Yalti" are especially interesting.

Enriched with new impressions, the artist returned to Zhytomyr (1917). After the revolution, O. Kantserov began intense public activity. He was especially inspired to work in the 1920s, when his responsibilities expanded considerably. On May 8, 1919, the first meeting of the Zhytomyr Union of Artists. O. Kantserov was elected as president.

As president of the union, he prepared the project of the arch, participated in the production of sketches for the design of Wrangel barracks, drew up programs for teaching lessons in painting, painting and modeling, designed exhibitions of "living" paintings in the city theater.

O. Kantserov worked on the interior of the theater, painted the scenery, published fairy tales for children, designed the ABC book and the magazine "Svitets". Alexander Grigoryevich also taught at the Industrial and Art School. He gave lessons in drawing, painting, plastic anatomy, theory of perspective, essays on geometry and applied drawing.

Hard work, financial problems, malnutrition and fatigue worsened his health. So, Kantserov could no longer work as before.

From 1924 until his death, O. Kantserov worked in the 7th labor school as a teacher of drawing and sketching. He taught this subject in other schools of Zhytomyr.

Many students of Kantserov became professional artists. The most famous of them is Leonid Volynsky - an artist, art critic, writer, who had a humane mission to preserve the treasures of the Dresden Art Gallery.

Talking about Kantserov, we must mention that he was a talented musician - cellist, independently learned the art of creating bowed instruments. He made unique joints, planes, scrapers, developed his own recipes for varnishes [3].

His passion for music brought the artist closer to the famous Zhytomyr composers such as Mikhail Skorulsky, Victor Kosenko and Vsevolod Skorokhod. In 1935-1936 O.

Kantserov for request of the museum did series of paintings from the history of geology ("Rankovy Lis", "Lito", "V Lisi", "Richka Guyva"). You can not miss the main part - the professional aspiration of the artist to the point of a larger, "monumental" landscape.

As it turned out, Kantserov began to create the last painting in 1936. It was request for exhibition of the national agriculture achievements in Moscow. The plot of the picture is hop harvesting. But he often changed the composition. Completed in 1937, the painting was sent to the show. When the exhibition was closed, the picture was lost.

O. Kantserov died on May 25, 1937 in his apartment on the street Rudensky, where he was living for a long time. Underestimation of the importance of the artist's work has led to the fact that his life path has not been studied enough. Almost completely absent works created by him in the 1890s and 1920s. And this complicates the holistic analysis of his creative legacy.

The facts from Kantserov's biography (and not many of them are known) need to be verified and documented. The period of the artist's stay in St. Petersburg has not been studied at all.

Lydia Dakhnenko, head of the Art Department of the Zhytomyr Regional Museum of Local Lore says: "It is incredible that such an artist, such skill and such creativity, such a long creative life fell out of the consciousness of professionals, art historians, people who make catalogs, encyclopedias" [4].

To sum up, we can say that during his life, the artist painted about 150 large canvases and created about 500 sketches. Some of Kantserov's paintings are kept in private collections.

All in all, the work of the painter still fascinates with its purity and sincerity, finds new fans of his talent. Zhytomyr Children's Art School was named after our remarkable compatriot, which means that his name and business continue to live in the descendants.

O. Kantserov paid a lot of attention in his works to the Volyn landscapes, but the St. Petersburg community of artists did not pass him by. He was inspired by the picturesque landscapes of Arkhip Kuindzhi, who by the way is a native-born of Mariupol County and often painted Ukrainian landscapes on his canvases. Oleksandr Hryhorovych expressed his feelings for the beauties of Polissya through fine arts. Moreover, he was a very active public activist and participated in the cultural life of the city.

To achieve this goal, namely the study of the life and work of Alexander Kantserov, I worked on many materials, including the personal archive of the artist in the Zhytomyr Museum of Local Lore, interviewed art critics and artists of Zhytomyr, and in conclusion, I can be sure that he discovered many new things about historical personalities of his city.

As I said at the beginning, I am deeply convinced that we must remember those who did not use the opportunity, but created it, who were hardworking and dedicated to their craft until the last days of life, the first-mover, thanks to whom we have a fairly well developed branch of fine arts here in Zhytomyr.

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