

## **GRYGORIY SHYSHKO (1923-94)**

Was born in 1923 in Kostromka, Dnipropetrovsk region of Ukraine. On graduation from Odessa Art College in 1953, he joined the Kryvyi Rih Union of Artists, with whom he first exhibited locally and regionally in 1954, when he also started work at the Kryvyi Rih branch of Dnipropetrovsk Art Fund, where he eventually became head of its Creative Section. A teacher at the Kryvyi Rih Pedagogical Institute, Shyshko was arguably its most important artist. He went on to become a member of the USSR Union of Artists in 1964.

He was an officially approved and recognised artist of the Soviet Union and rose to the top of his profession with his painterly rendering of the “beauty of work in the service of the State.” There is a frontier element to his work: nature is still colourful and exuberant yet grandly still; its unfettered power dominates his paintings with a power Western art can no longer evoke.

Many of the artist’s works are in museums and private collections at home and abroad. Shyshko’s paintings have been exhibited in the UK since 1993, with 7 Solo shows including an important one at the Mall Galleries, London, 2001. He has had two Solo retrospective shows with Hanover Fine Arts, Edinburgh, in 1998 & 2005, having first been shown in Festival 1993. More recent was a successful retrospective entitled ‘Grygoriy Shyshko Painting the Ukrainian Landscape from 1953 to 1994’ at the Chambers Gallery, London, April/May 2006, and again in March & November 2007. Most recently Danusha Fine Arts have exhibited him at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva.

*“... He maintained a frugal, post-impressionist style throughout his mature painting life and dignified the hard labour of heavy industry, as well as the beauties of nature, with an honest and dramatic flourish.”* (W. Gordon Smith, Feb. 1995, ‘Scotland on Sunday’)

Further information/works may be viewed at: [www.danusha-fine-arts.co.uk](http://www.danusha-fine-arts.co.uk)