



Малюк Копытов 1935-1936

PAVEL KORIN

Dean of Soviet Painters

LOAN EXHIBITION

May 12 to May 31, 1965

Under Cultural Exchange Program of the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R.

You are cordially invited to attend the opening
and meet the artist on May 11th, 5-7 P.M.

HAMMER GALLERIES

51 East 57th Street, New York 22, N. Y.

PLaza 8-0410

Cable: HAMMERGALL, N. Y.

Cover: Sketch for THE REQUIEM
State Tretyakov Gallery
Moscow
1935-1959

FOREWORD

Pavel Dimitrievich Korin was born in 1892 in Palekh, a village in central Russia. As a young boy he was aware of the vastness of the land in which he lived, the arc of the sky and the endless horizons of the verdant plains. He conceived an abiding love for the soil and fields, even the graceful birch trees which later accented his landscapes, and as he said, "Here I first perceived the great beauty of my country." This sensitivity was enhanced by his inheritance; for three hundred years his ancestors had made icons, so that he was imbued with the tradition, discipline and artistry of religious painting. To this day, Korin is deeply devout and possesses a remarkable collection of icons.

When he was sixteen, his passionate desire to become a painter and to enlarge his aesthetic concepts motivated him to leave his native village and go to Moscow, where he studied at the Art School until his nineteenth year. He was presented to Mikhail Nesterov, an outstanding painter and teacher, who immediately recognized that this shy young man had great talent. From this point on, all of the elements of Korin's endowments began to fuse — his love of nature, a disciplined boyhood, a growing knowledge of the heroic aspects of Russian history, an aptitude for portraiture, and his undaunted willingness to undertake projects of immense proportions. His dynamic mosaic decorations in the Moscow Subway Station are a monument to this ultimate breadth of vision.

During the 1920's Korin met Maxim Gorky who had seen some of his paintings and posters. Gorky became interested in his career because he appreciated the fervent dedication of this young artist, and encouraged him to study the masters. Korin traveled to Germany, France and Italy, and in 1932 painted his powerful portrait of Gorky in Sorrento. It is evident that Gorky was Korin's contemporary hero, embodying the thinker and writer, the fearless fighter for his cause, and the personification of rugged nobility. Korin painted him as a towering figure, a monolithic symbol of eminence, dwarfing the landscape and the aura surrounding him. The success of this work was duplicated in portraits of many other prominent personages; among them — Igumnov, the noted pianist whom he first painted while he was actually giving a performance, Alexei Tolstoy, his mentor and teacher — Nesterov, and Kachalov and Leonidov, who were both distinguished actors. Despite the fact that Korin made as many as thirty sketches of a subject and required almost as many sittings, he succeeded in preserving the original freshness of his impressions in the finished portraits.

In this exhibition there are portrait studies for THE REQUIEM, masterpieces which depict the dignitaries and laity assembled in the Uspensky Cathedral, in the Kremlin in Moscow. These preliminary paintings represent years of work and the viewer is impressed by the magnitude and prodigious physical scale of the endeavor. They are an evocation of Korin's devotion to his craft and his boundless reservoir of creative strength.

Pavel Korin was elected to membership in the Academy of Art of the U.S.S.R. in 1962, and on the occasion of his seventieth birthday he was honored as a People's Artist of the U.S.S.R. In 1963, Korin received the highest award, the Prize of Lenin.

Under the Cultural Exchange Program of the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R., we are pleased to present this loan exhibition, the first one-man showing of the works of Pavel Korin, the Dean of Soviet painters.

Victa J. Hammer

PAINTINGS for the REQUIEM



Mother Superior

1935



Archdeacon Mikhail Kholmogorov

1935



Father Superior and Monk

1933



Nun from the Voznesensky - Kremlin Monastery

1933

PAINTINGS for the REQUIEM



Father Fiodor

1932



Young Nun

1935



Father and Son

1931



Priest and Bishop

1935

PAINTINGS for the REQUIEM



Blind Man

1931



Bishop Trifon

1929



Metropolitan Sergei

1937



Nun from the Moscow-Ivanovo Monastery

1930

PORTRAITS



Alexei Tolstoy 1940



Vassily Kachalov 1940



Renato Guttuso 1961



Konstantin Igumnov 1941-43



Maxim Gorky 1932



Mikhail Nesterov 1939

