

THE SVETOSLAV ROERICH EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS
MOSCOW - LENINGRAD
U. S. S. R.

MESSAGE FROM DR. HUMAYUN KABIR
MINISTER OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH & CULTURAL AFFAIRS,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

TO
SVETOSLAV ROERICH
for the
INAUGURATION OF THE SVETOSLAV ROERICH EXHIBITION
on the 11th of May, 1960,

AT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, MOSCOW, U.S.S.R.

India has been for centuries a great centre of art and culture, where many traditions have met and mingled. This synthesis has been best expressed in the work of individual artists and Svetoslav Roerich is true to the tradition of India which has welcomed influences from abroad while remaining steadfast to her own ideal. We find in his life and art a union of the rich and varied traditions of Russia and India with all their variety and manifoldness.

It is right and proper that the work of Svetoslav Roerich, son of Nicholas Roerich, a great master in his own right, should be shown to the citizens of the Soviet Union. Svetoslav Roerich has inherited the purest and the best in the Western tradition of art and has at the same time been deeply moved by Indian thought and philosophy. The spirit of India has been fused with the body of the West and we find in his work an astonishing range that extends from the Biblical stories of the Old Testament to the idylls and scenes of Indian village life.

The paintings have often an ethereal quality while they are always true to nature. This combination of apparently alien elements is symbolic of the peace and unity which art

can bring into the world of politics and economics. Svetoslav Roerich's rich and powerful art transcends national, historical and geographical boundaries and provides a focus of unity for mankind.

Great art is simultaneously universal and unique. Roerich's art at its best is an expression of the special genius of the Russian mind in an Indian milieu. It is individual and at the same time an embodiment of the universal spirit of man.

I am confident that this exhibition of paintings of human themes by an Indian citizen of Russian origin will strengthen the bonds of fellowship and understanding among our peoples by interpreting in terms of beauty the aspirations which are common to the people of India, the Soviet Union and the rest of the world.

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Few Excerpts taken from:

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SPEECH BY SHRI K.P.S. MENON,
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA TO THE U. S. S. R.

...."The paintings of Roerich show conclusively that art rises above all national and political frontiers. In Roerich's art two worlds meet, the world of India and the world of Russia. This is not surprising, because he himself belongs to both worlds. Roerich was born in Russia. But, we would like to claim him as an Indian. He is an Indian by marriage - by marriage to one of the most beautiful and accomplished women of India. Thus, by heredity he is Russian; by environment he is Indian. I hope this will not raise the old controversy as to which is stronger, heredity or environment ! If this question is raised, I am afraid Roerich's paintings will provide no answer. In his paintings, heredity and environment, the inspiration of Russia and the inspiration of India, are beautifully and harmoniously blended".....

SPEECH BY MADAME E. BELASHOVA,
Secretary of the Board of Union of Artists
of U.S.S.R.

...."We are proud to know that Svetoslav Roerich, with the characteristic depth of the Russian soul could so profoundly evaluate the life of the people of this great country and reflect in his art its spiritual essence, culture and the unique nature of India, in creating paintings full of life - poetic and lyrical. In them is subtly revealed the beauty of the people of India and the grandeur of its nature. Reality, powerfully disclosed through images of art, always moves the soul of people".....

6

SPEECH BY MR. A. I. ZAMOSHKIN,
DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS AND
WELL KNOWN ART CRITIC,
MOSCOW.

....."THE ART OF SVETOSLAV ROERICH IS MODERN AND IT
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INAUGURATION OF THE SVETOSLAV ROERICH EXHIBITION
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SPEECH BY MR. VLADIMIR FRANZEVICH LOEVINSON-LESSING
Deputy Director of the Hermitage Museum, Leningrad.

....."HE AIMS IN HIS ART TO REALISE AND INTERPRET THE
GRANDEUR AND BEAUTY OF THE UNIVERSE IN ITS INTEGRAL UNITY
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