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**VITEBSK ART SCHOOL**

Vitebsk Art School is a priceless integral part to Belarusian cultural heritage. In the early XX century Vitebsk became one of the world's biggest laboratories of modern art, architecture and design. A group of artists who lived and worked in Vitebsk in the first quarter of the XX century became a unique phenomenon. The most known and popular representatives of the School are Yehuda Pen (1854-1937), Marc Chagall (1887-1985) and Kazimir Malevich.

Marc Chagall painted in a style all his own, combining elements of Expressionism, Symbolism, Cubism. Animals, workmen, lovers, and musicians populate his figures. His work expended to many forms of art, including painting, ceramics, mosaics and stained glass.

Kazimir Malevich (1877-1935) was an avant-garde painter, the founder of the Suprematist school of abstract painting. His most important and famous works concentrated on the exploration of pure geometric forms (squares, triangle and circles). Malevich's Black Square was an emptying out of all the value associated with art.

Vitebsk Art School chronicle began in 1918, when Vitebsk People's Art School was opened. In 1949 it was reorganized into Vitebsk Art Teaching Institute. Art-graphic faculty of Vitebsk State University was organized on September 1, 1959 on its basis. The graduates of the faculty develop the traditions of the Vitebsk Art School.

Vyacheslav Shaynurov creates pictures in different painting genres: landscape, portrait, still life. Anatoly Izoitko worked in painting and graphics. We can see his works in the State Tretyakov Gallery. Tatyana Zavedeeva creates pictures in water-colors and uses oil paintings. Most of the works of Ruslana Galinskaya are devoted to Vitebsk. Boris Khesin and Leonid Shchemelev are members of Belarusian Union of Artists. They participate in regional, city and international exhibitions. Olga Ivanova works in the genre of still life, architectural and urban landscape. Pavel Tatarnikov won the highest European award for illustrators the «Golden Apple» in 2009 for his illustrations to the book «Arthur is king of Albion». Valery Slavuk works in the field of book graphics. Dmitry Traenovich is one of the most famous designers of Belarusian musical albums. Vladimir Anishchenko is a landscapist. His works belong to realism. Yuri Khovansky shows a great talent as a colorist. In his paintings he depicts urban landscapes in the style of impressionism.

The creative works of contemporary Vitebsk artists are found in private collections and art galleries all over the world. The museum “The Centre of Modern Art” was opened for visitors in 2004. The mission of the centre is to develop traditions of Vitebsk Art School.