

Fine Art

Ukrainian artist Petro Ivanovych Magro was born 22 June 1918. At the age of 22 he graduated from the Dnipropetrovsk Art College. The college has a very high regard for realism in all its forms, particularly drawing and painting. Magro took part in the Second World War. From 1948 he actively participated in various exhibitions, including local, national and international. In 1964 he became a Member of the Association of USSR Artists, he is a member of the Artists Association of Ukraine and received a title of Honoured Artist of the Ukraine in 1996.

Petro Magro is a highly regarded and distinguished artist and his paintings can be found in museums in the Ukraine

and Russia, as well as in private collections in Australia, Canada, USA, France, Israel, Germany and a substantial collection displayed at Exchange Direct's headquarters in London.

He is essentially a lyrical artist who finds a form of poetry in everyday life, his views of nature being very simple and spontaneous rather than contrived. We see quiet evenings, radiant summer



mornings and autumn scenes amidst a veil of rain. The painter's skill with perspective allows him to solve the timeless problem of rendering wide open spaces within the confines of canvas. On the subject of colour, Magro tends to avoid the more active, aggressive hues, choosing instead the soft connections of close colours. Winter scenes are painted in silver, blues and soft mother-of-pearl tones. Water is another love of Magro and when it comes to capturing the true quality of the sky, he never sees it just as background, always endeavouring to feel the uneven and turbulent state of the sky in order to further intensify the emotion within his landscapes.

"Were it not for this name, Petro Magro might be regarded as a late-Victorian English painter, and indeed his work, emblems of rustic tranquillity, will appeal immediately to lovers of well painted escapism..." (W. Gordon Smith Scotland on Sunday, 19 February 1995.)

A major exhibition of Petro Magro's work, and that of other Ukrainian artists, is being held in co-operation between Danusha Fine Arts, Exchange Direct Plc and the Ukrainian Embassy to mark the launch of Exchange Direct (Kiev) in April. Details to be published.

