

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 1st March, 2008

Ukrainian painter's masterly industrial landscapes form a unique impression of modernity



The very sound of the name Shyshko evokes a whispered secret, it has a strange familiarity, and a premonitory one at that. Soon the name Shyshko will be chorus. It may even become a movement.

Industrial Mindscapes, a major exhibition of Ukrainian artist Grygoriy Shyshko's (1923-1994) stunning depictions of his native land, is to be held at Mayfair's The Arts Club from 7th-27th June and will include a selection of previously unseen paintings from the artist's family and private collections.

The 'distinctive language' of Shyshko's Impressionism

Mainly painted between the 1950s and the 1980s when Socialist Realism was on the wane, Shyshko's vivid landscapes show an astonishing versatility in the use of colour that marks out a border between art in the service of the state, and art for art's sake. The bright and confident strokes echo French Impressionism but the subject matter is, formally at least, the rugged, artificial mines, factories and industrial sites of Ukraine's modernity. The result is a tentative abstraction that sublimes the depth of the exterior into a new fusion enhancing our visual experience of the landscape.

As Jackie Wullschlager of the Financial Times has remarked, Shyshko's achievement '*was to make the familiar, everyday world transcendent yet still recognisably itself, without sentimentality, nostalgia or communist idealism.*'

For this reason Shyshko's landscapes could justly be called *Industrial Mindscapes* as the thick, visceral painting, its sincere, hopeful and forceful colours, play out fragmentary memories in unexplored regions of the mind, making associations between nature and society in rich, earthy compositions that recollect the fertile ground of the artist's home.

Danusha Fine Arts Director, Tamara Demydenko commented: "The paintings of Grygoriy Shyshko are a vital part of the history of Impressionism in Ukraine and beyond. As a painter of modernity, his romantic translation of the industrial landscape into canvases of such simple beauty is an orange revolution all of its own."

Shyshko's paintings have been exhibited in the UK since 1993 with as many as seventeen solo shows including an important retrospective at The Mall Galleries in 2001, and three solo shows in as many years at The Chambers Gallery. Most recently the exhibition *Modern Impressionism* was held at the United Nations Office in Geneva during October 2007.



The exhibition of the *Industrial Mindscapes* of Grygoriy Shyshko will be held at **The Arts Club**, 40 Dover Street, Mayfair, London from **7th till 27th June 2008** and can be viewed from 9am-9pm. A private view will be held on **10th June from 6-9pm**. For more information contact *Tamara Demydenko* on 0207 286 4832 or to preview more images visit www.danusha-fine-arts.co.uk. A variety of high resolution images are available. ###