

## **Bugeac Artists in Unity and Variety of Their Creative Manners**

**Tetyana Shevchuk<sup>1</sup>, Elena Kolmykova<sup>2</sup>, Alexander Kara<sup>3</sup>**

**Abstract:** The article deals with the creative activities of the representatives of Ismail Municipal Organization of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (IMO NUUA). It provides the information about the artists and craftsmen, who are the members of the above mentioned professional creative association, existing since 2008. Data is presented as of 2019.

**Keywords:** artist; organization; painting; exhibition; region

Ismail Municipal Organization of the National Union Ukrainian Artists (IMO NUUA) is a non-profit creative organization, which includes prominent artists from the South of the Odessa region, often referred to as Bugeac or Southern Bessarabia. The article is based on the materials, provided by the members of Ismail Municipal Organization of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists, who are highly qualified specialists, professionals in the field of painting, drawing, arts and crafts, restoration and conservation of paintings, including the church one, some of them having state-level awards. It contains the illustrations of the artists' works, representing the diversity of art vision, regional identity, originality and multiculturalism.

There are some publications about the IMO NUUA, in which the activities of members are revealed. Elena Kolmykovain the study “Bessarabian Motifs in the Artworks of Elena Andreyeva-Sychiova” (2017) underlines, that “The Danubian region of Ukraine is especially rich in talents which can be easily explained by its multicultural society. Traditions and customs, folklore and culture of the Ukrainians, Russians, Moldavians, Greeks, Bulgarians, Albanians, Armenians and other nations inhabiting the Ukrainian Bessarabia have found their reflection in art – painting, music, literature, dancing, etc.” (Kolmykova, 2017, p. 219). In the article the author analyzed the diversity of traditions and customs, folklore and culture, which found its reflection in the art of Elena Andreyeva-Sychiova – outstanding contemporary Ukrainian painter and ceramist, member of the National Union of Artists of Ukraine (since 2000).

Alexander Kara noticed: “Regional identity and multiculturalism are the principal features of the creativity of the Union representatives, who have significant number of regional, national and

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international exhibitions. Patriotic component is an essential priority of the cultural events, provided by the Organization. They are aimed at respecting the history, language, rites and customs of ethnic groups living in Bugeac” (Kara, 2016, p. 180). One of his publications Alexander Kara devoted to the artists, who are the Bessarabian Bulgarians by their origin: “A considerable number of members of the organization are Bessarabian Bulgarians, among them: Petr Chakir (1931-2012); Ivan Shishman, Alla Gritsenko (Chakir), Larisa Chakir-Uzun, Pavlo Macedonsky, Galina Sapunzi, Mikhail Peykov and Alexander Kara. For today only three artists from Budjak have received a high rank of the Honored Artist of Ukraine, and all of them are ethnic Bulgarians: Petr Chakir (since 2009); Alexander Kara (since 2012); Ivan Shishman (since 2015) (Kara, 2018, p. 321).

Tetyana Shevchuk studied in one of her articles the spiritual space of creativity of the modern Bessarabian artist Ivan Shishman, who is a member of the National Union of Artists of Ukraine and Honored Artist of Ukraine. I. Shishman’s achievements are represented by the series of creative compositions, restoration works, sacred paintings and its conservation, as well as icon painting (Shevchuk, 2018, p. 24). Tetyana Shevchuk analyzed in the other research “Cultural code of Bugeac contemporary fine arts and crafts” (2018) the cultural concepts of contemporary fine arts and crafts in Bugeac with a focus on the motives of artistic understanding of the world. The leading aesthetic accents prevailing in the works of Bugeac artists the author disclosed in the context of the main parameters of the functional structure of regional art as a system of forms of social

organization, regulation and communication, knowledge, accumulation and translation of social experience. The research of cultural semantics of fine arts and crafts works within the limits of cultural anthropology reveals the idea of a person as a producer and consumer of culture in regional parameters. The study reveals the general and original features of Bugeac easel painting, comprehending new levels of artistic perception of social reality in the artworks (Shevchuk, 2018, p. 477).

The goal of this article is to submit the guide to the works of the best Bugeac artists, whose artistic interest lies in a spectrum of themes.

**Andreyeva-Sychiova, Elena**<sup>1</sup>, born on May, 20, 1943, Strumok village, Odessa region. Graduated from Kosiv College of Applied and Decorative Arts (1965) (now Kosiv College of Applied and Decorative Arts of Lviv National Academy of Arts). Painter, ceramist. Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2000).

**Teachers in the specialty:** Yu. Kasyanenko; M. Kigot’; G. Kryzhanivska; O. Solomchenko; O. Sopilnyk.

**Art technique:** oil painting, ceramics, water-colour.

**Major works:** series of psychological portraits (1990-92), Icon of the Mother of God “Tender Feeling” (1992), triptych “Bessarabian Fair” (1992-93), series of paintings “Sorochintsi Fair” (1992-2005), triptych “Bessarabian Gypsies” (1993), triptych “Bessarabian Wedding” (1993), “Easter Night” (1993), “Sauna” (1996), “Budapest

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<sup>1</sup> Andreyeva-Sychiova, Elena: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/andreeva-sychiova-olga>.

Fiddler” (2000), “Equestrienne” (2005), “Easter Morning” (2009), “Generous Autumn” (2010), series of paintings “Holiday” (2013), series of paintings “Theatre” (2013), “The Abduction of Europe” (2014), etc.

Has solo exhibitions in Ukraine and abroad, including Ismail Art Gallery (My Bessarabia, 1993), Exposition Hall of Odessa Union of Artists (1993), Odessa Literary Museum (1995), Kyiv Children's Academy of Arts (2000), Art Gallery in Smolyan (Bulgaria, 1994), private Art gallery in Helsinki (Finland, 1996), etc.

Since 1980, active participant of international (Bulgaria, Russia, Romania, Finland) and all-Ukrainian exhibitions, among which: Republican exhibition, dedicated to the 500th anniversary of Ukrainian Kozakdom (Zaporizhzhya, 1991), All-Ukrainian Art Exhibition, dedicated to B. Khmelnytsky's 400th birthday anniversary (Kyiv, 1995), Ukrainian Bulgarians' exhibition, dedicated to the liberation of Bulgaria from the Turkish yoke (Kyiv, 1995), “Picturesque Ukraine” (Uzhgorod, 1995), exhibition “Melodies of Bessarabia”, dedicated to the Ukrainian Independence Day (Regional Centre of Folk Arts, 2002), “Women of Ukraine” (Cherkassy, 2003), exhibition in Library of Pielavesi (Pielavesi, Finland, 2005), exhibitions in Art galleries: “Amis” (Odessa, 2001), “Vuotalo” (Helsinki, Finland, 2005, 2006), “Art Anna” (Iisalmi, Finland, 2009), “Lasipalatsi” (Helsinki, Finland, 2010, 2011), exhibition in the Culture centre of Kiuruvesi (Kiuruvesi, Finland, 2014), etc. Participant of plein-air in Bulgaria (Smolyan, 1993) and Ukraine (Transcarpathia, Uzhgorod, 1995).

**Afanasyev, Vladimir**<sup>1</sup>, born on March, 1, 1949, Pavlovka village, Odessa region (Ukraine). Graduated from K. D. Ushynskiy Odessa State Pedagogical Institute, Faculty of Painting and Drawing (1971). Painter. Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2008). Founder and Director of Artsyz School of Art (Odessa region).

**Author of the following works on art:** “The world of artist Afanasyev's drawing” (2002); “Wedding in Vladimir Afanasyev's drawing” (2004).

**Major works:** “Shabo vine” (1978), “Noon on Stacking” (1979), “Bathers” (1979), “Evening Song” (1975), “Oh, Sport” (1980), “Olympic Movement” (1984), “Third Day of Wedding” (1986), “A Girl from Deleny” (1985), “Artsyz Landscape” (1986). Winner of “People of labour” art contest held by the newspaper “Evening Odessa” in memory of Vladimir Derevyanko (2009). In V. Afanasyev's works folk motifs and cheap popular print aesthetics prevail. Participant of local, national, and international exhibitions (since 1970).

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<sup>1</sup> Afanasyev, Vladimir: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/afanasyev-volodymyr>.

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**Belyi, Valentin**<sup>1</sup>, born on December, 29, 1967, Bilolissya village, Odessa region. Graduated from Ismail State Pedagogical Institute (1996). Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2012).

**Art technique:** applied and decorative arts, paintings' restoration.

**Teachers in the specialty:** I. Shishman, A. Kara.

Restored over a hundred of ancient icons, including the 18<sup>th</sup> century Old Believer Icon “Lord Almighty” (Museum of Danube Region, Ismail), which combines the elements of Ukrainian and Moldavian decorative patterns; the unique Icon of St. Simeon the Stylite, painted on Mount Athos and bearing the inscriptions in Greek, Russian and Romanian, restored together with the painter P. Kostov (Local History Museum, Reni). Was awarded the medal of Pochayiv Icon of the Mother of God (2014).

**Dimitrova, Irina**<sup>2</sup>, born on May, 13, 1978, Artsyz, Odessa region. Graduated from K.D. Ushinsky South Ukrainian National Pedagogical University (2009). Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2013).

**Art technique:** applied and decorative arts, oil painting, drawing.

**Teachers in the specialty:** O. Tarasenko, S. Muntyan.

**Major works:** “Horse Family” (2012), “Christmas and Carols” (2012), “Self-portrait with guitar” (2012).

Active participant of regional and national exhibitions and plein-air.

**Drumova, Olga**<sup>3</sup>, born on February 12, 1976, Aktyubinsk, Kazakhstan. Graduated from Ismail State University for Humanities (2010). Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2013).

**Art technique:** oil painting, drawing.

**Teachers in the specialty:** A. Kara, I. Pastyr.

**Major works:** “Inchantment” (2009), “Frankness” (2012), “Still Life with Red Balls” (2012), “Nostalgia for Autumn” (2012), “Revelations” (2012). Since 2007, an active participant of international, national and local exhibitions, including Republican exhibition “Picturesque Ukraine” (Dnepropetrovsk, 2008), Republican exhibition “Women of Ukraine” (Cherkassy, 2012), All-Ukrainian exhibition of Fine Arts dedicated to Artist's Day (Kyiv, 2014), Art Exhibition “Strandja” (Malko- Tyrnovo, Bulgaria, 2011), International Art exhibition (Chimishlia, Moldova), plein-air in Crimea (2011), Bugaz (2013), Moldova (2013).

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<sup>1</sup> Belyi, Valentin: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/bilyy-valentyn>.

<sup>2</sup> Dimitrova, Irina: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/dimitrova-iryna>.

<sup>3</sup> Drumova, Olga: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/drumova-olga>.

**Dudnik, Vladimir**<sup>1</sup>, born on February, 12, 1959, Ismail, Odessa region. Graduated from M. Grekov Odessa Art School. Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2008).

**Art technique:** oil painting, drawing.

**Teachers in the specialty:** T. Yegorova, A. Loza, V. Filipenko.

**Major works:** “House on the cliff” (1992), “Escape to Egypt” (2001), “The Truth” (1996), “Mystery of Wedding” (2003), “Guelder Rose” (2004), “Dialogue” (2004), “The Lord's supper” (2004), “Way to Yalpug” (2005), “Danubian blues” (2007),

“Daybreak over the Danube” (2006), “Messenger” (2007), “Soul of a fisherman” (2007), “Self-awareness” (2014), “Dialogue” (2016). Active participant of international and national exhibitions, international plein-airs in Bulgaria (Smolyan, 1993, 1994; MalkoTrnovo, 2011), Romania (“Galica”, Tulcea, 1999). Participant of art performance “Author's Painted Easter egg” under the project “374 artists” (Kyiv, 2016). Has solo exhibitions, including “My Danube” (Bolgrad, Ukraine); “Dialogue” (Ismail, Ukraine, 2004-2016), Exhibition Hall “UNION”, Odessa Municipal Gallery, Odessa Museum of Western and Eastern Art.

**Public activity:** organizer of the annual “ArtBat Festival” of Danube region craftsmen, aiming at promotion of the beauty and variety of regional art and involving artists from Moldova and Romania to take part in the event (since 2013); initiator of the website “ArtBat Gallery of Ismail Artists”.

**Dyoshin, Dmitry**<sup>2</sup>, born on October, 20, 1943, Tatarbunary, Odessa region. Graduated from M. V. Lomonosov Odessa Technological Institute (1970). Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2013).

Painter.

**Art technique:** oil painting.

**Major works:** “In Father's Workshop” (2009), “End of War” (2009), “Old Artsyz” (2009), “Gathering of Young People” (2012), “Bessarabian Knight” (2014).

Active participant of regional and national exhibitions and plein-airs, in particular “Triennial of Painting” (Kiev, 2010).

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<sup>1</sup> Dudnik, Vladimir: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/dudnyk-volodymyr>.

<sup>2</sup> Dyoshin, Dmitry: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/dyoshyn-dmytro>.

**Fedyayev, Nikolay**<sup>1</sup>, born on May, 4, 1967, Lyskovo, Nizhny Novgorod region (Russia). Graduated from Ismail State University for Humanities (2005). Painter. Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2008).

**Major works:** “Girl Dressed as Harlequin” (2011), “Flowers on the Blue” (2011), “Lovers of Murzy Tribe” (2011), “Bird-catcher” (2012), “Kilimanjaro” (2012), “Fortunetelling at Night before Christmas” (2012);, “Andrew’s slope” (2013), “Forgotten Attic” (2013), “Canary” (2013), “Ukrainian Girl” (2013), “Tricky Seller” (2013), “Birdie” (2014).

Active participant of regional, national and international exhibitions and plein-air. Has solo exhibitions, including Odessa Literary Museum (1995); Odessa Organization of Ukrainian Union of Artists (1996); Ismail Art Gallery (1996); Odessa Gallery “Decor” (1997-2003); Odessa Gallery “White Moon” (“Kaleidoscope of stories”, 2008; “Round the World”, 2009); Kyiv Gallery “Fortune” (2010, 2011); Odessa Gallery “Vernissage” (“Time Travel”, 2012). Is included to the encyclopedia “The Artist of the World” (Munich, Leipzig).

**Gritsenko (Chakir), Alla**<sup>2</sup>, born on March, 19, 1955, Kotlovina village, Odessa region. Graduated from M. Grekov Odessa Art School (1977). Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2000).

**Art technique:** oil painting and drawing.

**Teachers in the specialty:** O. Nyrkovska, N. Vashkulyova.

**Major works:** “Secrets of Alchemy” (1998), “Transfiguration” (2000), “Maria” (2000), “Pearl Diver” (2003), “Chance Meeting” (2005), “Wave” (2007), “Bouquet for Klimt” (2007), “Annunciation” (2008), “Taste of Pomegranate” (2010), “Joy of Flight and Sadness of Presence” (2009), “Summer with us” (2010). Active participant of national and international exhibitions (since 1977), including Kyiv-Pechersk Historical and Cultural Park (“And May powdered the cheek by white”, 2009). Has solo exhibitions.

**Gusakov, Anatoliy**<sup>3</sup>, born on February, 21, 1950, Ismail, Odessa region. Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2010).

**Art technique:** applied and decorative arts. Restored the Royal Gate of the Constantine and Elena monastery (Ismail, 1995), icon-cases in the Saint Trinity Church (Rzhishchev, Kiev region, 2005), participated in the restoration of the Holy Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God Church (Ismail, 2008), restored the icon-stand of Mother of God Holy Nativity Monastery, the tomb (2010). Was awarded the medal of Pochayiv Icon of the Mother of God (2014).

<sup>1</sup> Fedyayev, Nikolay: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/fedyayev-mykola>.

<sup>2</sup> Gritsenko (Chakir), Alla: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/gritsenko-alla>.

<sup>3</sup> Gusakov, Anatoliy: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/gusakov-anatoliy>.



**Ilyina, Nadezhda**<sup>1</sup>, born on January, 1, 1970, Ismail, Odessa region. Graduated from Ismail State University for Humanities (2015). Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2015). Head of the workshop “Pottery” (since 2007).

**Art technique:** applied and decorative arts.

**Teachers in the specialty:** I. Ilyin, A. Kara, I. Shishman.

**Major works:** compositions “Gossip” (2004), “Near Lath Fence” (2004), “By the Water” (2007), “Christmas Carols” (2010), “Easter” (2010), “Angel of Expectation” (2014), “The World Like the Easter” (2015). Participant of international, national and regional exhibitions including: the Republican

exhibition “Picturesque Ukraine” (Dnepropetrovsk, 2007); Republican Christmas exhibition (Kyiv, 2010); All-Ukrainian Easter Exhibition of Applied and Decorative Arts “The World Like the Easter” (Kyiv, 2010); International exhibition of pottery (Vinnitsa, Ukraine, 2010); International Festival of Arts “Lower Danube Euroregion” (Romania, 2011); International Art Exhibition (Chimishlia, 2013).

**Public activity:** head of “Pottery” club (since 2007).

**Kara, Alexander**<sup>2</sup>, born on April, 14, 1956, New Troyany village, Odessa region (Ukraine). Graduated from K.D. Ushinskiy Odessa State Pedagogical Institute (1982). Painter. Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2000). Honoured Artist of Ukraine (2012). Associate professor of Fine Arts Chair of Ismail State University for Humanities.

**Teachers in the specialty:** L. Brovko, I. Logvin.

**Art technique:** oil painting, wax painting, drawing.

**Major works:** “My Angel” (1994), “Women from Troyanyvillage” (1996), “Pastoral Song” (1997), “Memories about Bread” (1999), “Frontiermen” (2002), “Sacrament” (2004), “Muse” (2004), “The First Furrow” (2005), “Royal Silence” (2006), “Grapevine” (2007), “Horo” (2007), “Threads of the Past” (2008), “Christmas Guests” (2010), “Golden Vine” (2012), “Bathing” (2014), “St. George” (2014). Has solo exhibitions, including the National Art Gallery (Ukraine, 2005), National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria (2005), the Crimean Republican Institution “Livadia Palace-Museum” (Yalta, 2007), General Consulate of the Republic of Bulgaria (Odessa, 2008), Kiev Museum of History (2012). Participant of more than 160 collective exhibitions in Ukraine and abroad, international plein-air “Golden Orpheus” (Bulgaria, 1992), “St. Luke” (Bulgaria, 1996), “Osojnica” (Macedonia 1997), “Takmakli” (Bulgaria, 2005), Chimishlia (Moldova, 2013). Has nine awards for painting. Author of 33 publications, 7 of which are researches, 24 - creative works, 3 - guides for students.

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<sup>1</sup> Ilyina, Nadezhda: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/ilyina-nadiya>.

<sup>2</sup> Kara, Alexander: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/kara-oleksandr>.

**Public activity:** initiator and constant curator of children's art biennale "Children of Bessarabia" and Republican plein-air "Budjak Palette" (since 1998). Laureate and winner of the contest "Person of the Year" in the nomination "Painting" (2005). Head of the Ismail Municipal Organization of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (since 2008). Active participant of international exhibitions and creative meetings of the Lower Danube artists.

**Kotsoflyak, Ivan**<sup>1</sup>, born on January, 04, 1948, Izmail, Odessa region. Graduated from M. Grekov Odessa Art School (1968) and I. Fedorov Ukrainian Printing Art Institute (1977). Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2005).

**Art technique:** oil painting, drawing, watercolor.

**Teachers in the specialty:** T. Yegorova, A. Loza, V. Chyshko.

**Major works:** "White Night" (1993), "Night on Midsummer" (1987), "Olya" (1993), "Girl in White" (1993), "Rhodian Suite" (1994), "Water Lilies" (1998), "Susanna and the Old men" (2009) "Silence of Summer

Night" (1994), "Paganini" (1996), "Old buffoon" (2011), "Lullaby" (2001), "Memories about Father" (2010), "Forest Song" (2010). Active participant of district, regional and international exhibitions (since 1976). Has solo exhibitions, including Ismail Picture Gallery (Ismail, 2013), Local History of the Danubian Region Museum (Ismail, 2016).

**Leventsova, Valeriya**<sup>2</sup>, born on February, 12, 1960, Irkutsk region, Russia. Graduated from M. Grekov Odessa Art School (1980) and K.D. Ushinskiy Odessa State Pedagogical Institute (1989). Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2008).

**Teachers in the specialty:** T. Yegorova; A. Loza; V. Vlasov.

**Art technique:** oil painting, drawing, orgalite, enamel, batik, collage.

**Major works:** *batik* - triptych "Dialogue" (1997), "Fairy Mistress" (1998), "Scythian Girl" (2001), "Window" (2002), "Easter Madonna" (2004), "Huts" (2009), "Horses on the yellow colour" (2012), "Giraffes" (2012), "Prague" (2012); *painting* - "The Danube Legend" (1993), "Pears" (1998), "Entertainment" (1998), "Autumn" (2000), "Figure" (2000), "Rhythms of the Easter Eggs" (2002), "Horses" (2006), "Winter Horse" (2008), "Sun Cat" (2009), "Ukrainian Women" (2010), "Horses at the dawn" (2012), "Pumpkins" (2013), "Vase with Grapes" (2013); *collages* - "Girl with a Bird" (2000), "Racing Horses" (2002), "Cossack Glory" (2003), "In Winter" (2008), "Scythian Horses" (2010). Participant of regional, national and international exhibitions, including solo exhibitions (since 1990) in Kiliya (2001), Odessa (2002, 2003), Ismail (2002, 2014), Weimar (Germany, 2012).

<sup>1</sup> Kotsoflyak, Ivan: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/kocoflyak-ivan>.

<sup>2</sup> Leventsova, Valeriya: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/levencova-valeriya>.



**Public activity:** teacher of art section in Kiliya Children's Music School (since 1989). Organizer of the first open competition of arts and crafts "Bessarabian Mosaic" (Kiliya, 2016) for the students of aesthetic education schools in Ismail, Bolgrad, Tarutino, Reni, Kiliya.

**Lemesheva, Katherine**<sup>1</sup> born on December, 17, 1985, Izmail, Odessa region. Graduated from Ismail State University for Humanities (2008) an. D. Ushinskiy Odessa State Pedagogical Institute (2010). Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2008). Head teacher at Ismail Art School for children.

**Teachers in the specialty:** I. Pastyr; A. Kara.

**Art technique:** oil painting, wax painting.

**Major works:** "Spring Symphony" (2008), "Sounds of Silence" (2011), "Make a Wish" (2012), "Sun for the Two" (2013), "Ones upon a Christmas" (2013), "Moonlight Sonata" (2013), "Journey to the Sun" (2013), "Undrunk Coffee" (2013), "Spring Mood" (2013), "Family Talisman" (2014), "Angel's Blessing" (2015), "Summer Rain" (2015), "Pink Swallows" (2015), "February for the Two" (2015), "House where Angel lives" (2015), "Higher than the Clouds" (2015).

Has 8 solo exhibitions, including Nova Zagora (Bulgaria, 2008), Skopje (Macedonia, 2008), General Consulate of the Republic of Bulgaria (Odessa, 2010), Odessa Literary Museum (Odessa, 2010), Ismail Art Gallery (Ismail, 2008; 2010; 2013; 2015). Participant of more than 60 national and international exhibitions, plein-air in Nova Zagora (Bulgaria, 2007, 2008), Chernivtsi (Ukraine, 2010), Chimishlia (Moldova, 2013; 2015), Balta (Ukraine, 2014, 2016), Radovlitsa (Slovenia, 2015), Stoliv (Montenegro, 2016).

**Makedonsky, Pavel**<sup>2</sup>, born on February, 20, 1967, Suvorovo village, Odessa region. Graduated from K. D. Ushinskiy Odessa State Pedagogical Institute (1994). Painter. Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2008).

**Teachers in the specialty:** A. Tokareva; S. Spodenyuk.

**Major works:** "It has rained" (1994), "Walkway on Uspensky Square" (1996), "Pokrovsky Cathedral" (1998), "Sunny Day" (2008), "Rainy Day in Batumi" (2011), "Boats" (2011), "Yard" (2013), "Chrysanthemums" (2014), series "Transcarpathia" (2013). Active participant of local, regional and international exhibitions (since 1994), including exhibitions of Bulgarian artists from Odessa Bulgarian Community and Museum of West European Art (Odessa, 1994, 1995, 1997). Has solo exhibitions in Ismail Art Gallery (1995, 2008, 2013), Municipal Museum of O. Bleschunov Collections (1995), Danubian Region Local History Museum (Ismail, 2016). Was awarded the medal of Pochayiv Icon of the Mother of God (2014).

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<sup>1</sup> Lemesheva, Katherine: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/lemesheva-kateryna>.

<sup>2</sup> Makedonsky, Pavel: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/makedonsky-pavlo>.

**Mitaki, Tatiana**<sup>1</sup>, born on March, 8, 1960, Larzhanka village, Odessa region. Painter. Graduated from Moscow People's University (1992). Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2008).

**Teachers in the specialty:** M. Rotanov; E. Zolotaryov.

**Major works:** "Juda's Kiss" (1993), "Weatherbeat. Lake Kugurluy" (1995), triptych "God's ways of Ismail Greeks" (2003).

Has solo exhibitions in Ukraine and abroad including Ismail Art Gallery (1996), Millennium Gallery (Berlin, 1999; 2000); Russian House of Science and Culture in Germany (Berlin, 2000); Greek Foundation for Culture in Ukraine (Odessa, 2001); Charlottenburg House of Councils (Berlin, 2005); Odessa Art Museum (2008); Donetsk Regional Art Museum (2011);

A. Kuindzhi Mariupol Center for Contemporary Art (2012); Hartsyz Local History Museum (2013).

Active participant of collective regional and international exhibitions including Artyomovsk Local History Museum ("Independence Day of Greece", 2010); Gorlovka Art Museum ("Palette of Inspiration", 2010); Corfu Art Gallery in Greece ("World Through Art", 2014); A. Kuindzhi Mariupol Center for Contemporary Art ("Artists-Greeks of Ukraine", 2010; "To the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of A. Kuindzhi", 2016).

**Social activities:** head of the Art Studio (Larzhanka village, 1996-2001). Head of Ismail National-Cultural Society of Ukrainian Greeks "Hellas" (since 2008).

**Patenko, Nonna**<sup>2</sup>, born on August, 17, 1965, Ismail, Odessa region. Graduated from Ilya Repin Chisinau Republican Art-Teacher School. Painter. Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2012).

**Teacher in the specialty:** E. Simakov.

**Art technique:** oil painting.

**Major works:** "Chrysanthemums" (2008), "December outside the window" (2011), "Still-life with guelder and flowers" (2011), series "Winter" (2009), "Autumn" (2009). Active participant of regional and republican exhibitions.

**Peykov, Michail**<sup>3</sup> born on October, 10, 1941, Karakurte village, Odessa region. Graduated from Ukrainian Polygraphic University named by Ivan Fedorov in Lviv (1978). Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2017).

**Art technique:** oil painting, drawing, watercolor, carcasses, linseed, carving on wood.

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<sup>1</sup> Mitaki, Tatiana: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/mitaki-tetyana>.

<sup>2</sup> Patenko, Nonna: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/patenko-nonna>.

<sup>3</sup> Peykov, Michail: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/pejkov-volodimir>.

**Major works:** “Life Wisdom” (1996), “Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Karakurte village” (2007), “Landowner House” (2018), “Lesson of weaving” (2018), “The household yard of colonist” (2018), “Bulgarian wedding” (2018), “Chorbaggien” (2017), “Dyado Stancho, folk singer” (2017).

**Sapunzhi, Galina**<sup>1</sup>, born on June, 8, 1970, Bagate village, Odessa region. Graduated from the Academy of Art in Sofia (Bulgaria). Painter. Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2010).

**Teachers in the specialty:** I. Gazdov; P. Vilchev.

**Major works:** “Poppy blossoms” (2011), “Ivan Kupala Night” (2012), “Old Pier” (2013), “Post Doves” (2013).

Active participant of regional, national and international exhibitions and plein-air, including: exhibition of Bulgarian artists of Ukraine (Kyiv, 2008), republican exhibition “Picturesque Ukraine” (2010), international plein-air in the city of Unecha (Russia, 2010), all-Ukrainian plein-air (Chernivtsi, 2011), all-Ukrainian exhibition “Women of Ukraine” (Cherkassy, 2013), international plein-air in Radovlitsa (Slovenia, 2015), Kaminari and Stoliv (Montenegro, 2016). Has solo exhibitions in Ismail Art Gallery (“Seasons”, 2013) and Muta gallery (Slovenia, 2015).

**Sednin, Nicolay**<sup>2</sup>, born on December, 25, 1968, Ismail, Odessa region. Graduated from M. Grekov Odessa Art School (1992). Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (1995).

**Teachers in the specialty:** Y. Kiritchenko; S. Lukin.

**Art technique:** arts and crafts, oil painting, drawing, photography.

**Major works:** “Man-Cathedral” (1991), “White Figure” (1992), “Bird” (1993), series of DI-ART paintings, portraits.

Member of the Union of Artists of Ukraine and Russia. Member of International Federation of Artists (IFA UNESCO) and the International Association of Graphic Arts. (ADOGI). Participant of foreign and international exhibitions. Founder of a laboratory art studio at the Moscow psycho-neurological treatment facility (1994). Worked out a program “Healing Art” (1998- 1999) on the rehabilitation of psyche via creative process.

Had solo exhibition in the State Tretyakov Gallery (1996). Created “DI-ART” style (2000). In 2002, State Duma held a retrospective exhibition of his works. Founder of the company “Sednin Studio”.

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<sup>1</sup> Sapunzhi, Galina: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/sapunzhy-galina>.

<sup>2</sup> Sednin, Nicolay: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/sednin-mykola>.

Award winner of “Man of the Future” Interforum (2004). His works are in galleries and private collections in Russia, Ukraine, Latvia, Bulgaria, Spain, Israel, USA, Japan. Made the portraits of the Russian President Vladimir Putin, French actor Pierre Richard, President of the World Association (FCEM) Leila Hayat, fashion designer Pierre Cardin, political leaders, cultural luminaries of Russia, heads of the largest domestic and foreign missions.

Award winner of many prestigious national and international professional awards, including: medal of highest public recognition “Great Citizen of Russia” (Russia, 2011); international medal of Saints Cyril and Methodius (Russia, 2011); medal of Yaroslav the Wise (Russia, 2010); international medal of public recognition of the Encyclopedia “Who is Who” (Switzerland, 2010); medal “Man of Millennium” (Russia, 2009).

**Skulinets, Dmitry<sup>1</sup>**, born on June, 25, 1972, in Sverdlovsk (Russia). Graduated from M. Grekov Odessa Art School (1992). Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2013).

**Teachers in the specialty:** O. Kuchynska; A. Dudkin; V. Voznikov; V. Sokolov.

**Art technique:** oil painting, drawing.

**Major works:** “Blossoming” (2011), “Evening” (2012), “Geese” (2013).

Active participant of regional and national exhibitions and plein-air. Teacher in the Artsyz Art School.

**Tkach, Tamara<sup>2</sup>** born on December, 01, 1954, Glyboke village, Odessa region. Graduated from K.D. Ushinskiy Odessa State Pedagogical Institute (1977). Painter. Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2017).

**Art technique:** oil painting, drawing.

**Major works:** “Fathers” (2014), “Bessarabian Madonna” (2014), “Silence of the Steppe” (2015), “Under the Arch” (2016).

**Chakir-Uzun, Larisa<sup>3</sup>**, born on March, 31, 1956, Kotlovina village, Odessa region. Graduated from M. Grekov Odessa Art School (1976). Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2008).

**Art technique:** arts and crafts, painting, drawing.

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<sup>1</sup> Skulinets, Dmitry: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/skulinec-dmitro-fedorovich>.

<sup>2</sup> Tkach, Tamara: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/tkach-tamara>.

<sup>3</sup> Chakir-Uzun, Larisa: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/chakir-uzun-larysa>.

Active participant of regional and national exhibitions and plein-air (since 1999), including Kiev-Pechersk Historical and Cultural Park (“...And May powdered the cheek by white...”, 2009); Livadia Palace Museum (“Bulgarian meetings”, 2009); Odessa exhibition “Man of the Future” (2010); International Exhibition in the Ukrainian House in Kyiv (2010) and others.

**Major works:** “Memorial Day” (2000), “Blessing” (2002), “Peonies” (1998), “Not Dreamed Imagination” (2005), “Persimmon” (2007).

**Shishman, Ivan**<sup>1</sup>, born on July, 31, 1963, Ismail, Odessa region. Graduated from K. D. Ushinskiy Odessa State Pedagogical Institute (1985). Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (2000). Honoured Artist of Ukraine (2012). Associated professor of Fine Arts Chair of Ismail State University for Humanities.

**Teachers in the specialty:** A. Vorokhta; L. Ferapontov; V. Efimenko.

**Art technique:** oil painting, drawing.

**Major works:** “Bread of My Land” (1987), “Waiting” (1988), triptych “Flames of Memory” (1993), “The Birth of Zlata” (1995), “The Parable of Dishes Creating” (1996), “Sacrament” (2003) “Golden Song of Orpheus” (2010), “Boat” (2012).

Since 1983, participant of exhibitions and plein-air, has more than 10 solo exhibitions in Ukraine and abroad, including Ukrainian House (Kyiv); Museum of West-Eastern Art (Odessa); Archaeological Museum (Odessa); Museum of Foreign Art (Sofia, Bulgaria); Museum of Book, Kiev-Pechersk Laura (Kyiv). Participant of international plein-air “Strandzhensk Palette” (Malko Tyrnovo, Bulgaria, 2008; 2010).

**Monumental projects:** restoration and conservation of paintings of the St. Constantine and Elena Cathedral (Ismail, 1993-2003); designing and painting of the St. Paraskeva Church (Zhelyava, Sofia, Bulgaria, 1997); designing and painting of the St. Trinity Church (Rzhishchev, Kiev region, 2005-2010). Was awarded the medal of St. Prince Yaroslav the Wise (2014).

**Chakir, Peter**<sup>2</sup>, (1931-2012), born in Kotlovinavillage, Odessa region. Graduated from Moscow University of Arts (1963) and K. D. Ushinskiy Odessa State Pedagogical Institute (1969).

**Art technique:** drawing, watercolour, enamel, oil painting.

Had solo exhibitions in Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary. Since 1987, was a regular participant of international symposia on hot enamel (Hungary).

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<sup>1</sup> Shishman, Ivan: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/shishman-ivan>.

<sup>2</sup> Chakir, Peter: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/chakir-petro>.

In 1985 was awarded the Diploma of the Union of Artists of the USSR for participation in the exhibition in the House of Friendship with the Representatives of Foreign Countries. Worked as a teacher of drawing at secondary school in Ismail, Ukraine. In memory of Chakir art exhibitions are held annually in Ismail Art Gallery. Since 2014, annual exhibitions of plein-air works of the students of Odessa national Academy of architecture and construction are held in his native village of Kotlovina. Was posthumously awarded the title “Honorary Citizen of Ismail” (2012). In 2016 a street in Ismail was named after Chakir.

**Major works:** “Hawthorn” (1979), “Landscape” (1979), “Warm Day” (1981), series “Bessarabian wedding dances” (1990), “Bessarabian Madonna” (1999).

**Nedopaka, Mikhail**<sup>1</sup> (1920-2005), born in Tymkiv village, Odessa region. Graduated from M. Grekov Odessa Art School (1950) and Odessa Institute of Sculpture and Architecture (1952). Member of the National Union of Ukrainian Artists (1985). Sculptor.

**Major works:** bronze bust of “Bulgarian Team Leader” (1975), “Youth” (1980), “Sweet root” (1982), a composition in commemoration of the Tatarbunary uprising heroes (Tatarbunary, Odessa region), monument to the Bulgarian educator Christo Botev (Ismail), composition in memory of the fallen heroes of World War II (Broskavillage, Odessa region), monument to Taras Shevchenko (Shevchenko village, Odessa region), monument to General Sergey Tuchkov (Ismail). Mikhail Nedopaka’s works are in the exhibition halls in Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Moldova.

Creative manners of Bugeac artists demonstrate the unity of the spiritual culture of peoples inhabiting the region. Cultural code consists of numerous mythological and archetypal elements on the content, formal and structural plans of creative compositions of artists that serve to comprehend the specifics of cultural life in the region. It is determined by the atmosphere of self-sufficiency, tranquility, pacification, as well as the motives of the unity of man and nature, of peace and harmony in coexistence. The leading motives are: the love of regional artists to their land; the cult of traditional values and communal self-consciousness. Multiculturalism becomes the real basis for the functioning of local traditions. The mythopoetic picture of the world of local society is enriched by numerous ethnic-borrowings, which are perceived as common national heritage.

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<sup>1</sup> Nedopaka, Mikhail: <https://imonuau.wixsite.com/izmail-art/nedopaka-myhaylo>.



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