

EAST MEETS WEST GALLERY
The Floating World
Japan: Crafts as Fine Art (part I and II)

Do you know how to tell a Japanese tea shop from a sake shop? How traditional lanterns and parasols are made? What Japanese men do in the subway when they hide behind the short curtains? How to choose a vintage kimono or obi?

Tatiana Paleeva's latest exhibit came into being during her travels to the central region of Japan, including Tokyo, Nagoya, Nara, Osaka, Kyoto, Takayama and Kanazawa. All the pieces she shows – antique kimonos and obi, traditional lanterns, screens, antique Japanese prints "Ukiyo-e", handmade oiled-paper umbrellas – were collected during this and similar trips over the past few years, and represent the "floating world" of Japanese art and culture (Part I).

Meanwhile, the accompanying photographs capture the atmosphere of traditional Japanese markets and temple ceremonies, the architectural details of ancient village streets, the quiet grace of young Kyoto women dressed for the Lantern Festival, and the faces of Nagoya schoolboys returning home with their teacher after a field trip (Part II).

Moscow artists Lily Balasanova and Sergei Kolevatykh have also created a unique collection of paintings, collages and screens especially for the exhibit, in harmony with the distinctive and ancient traditions of Japan. Lily and Sergei use the ornamental designs of "kazuri", calligraphic inscriptions made with "sumiyo" brushes and hand-made Japanese paper. Each work was created with its own special technique, not copied blindly from traditional methods but aimed at capturing the authenticity of color, texture and mood of the traditional Japanese style. (Part I)

The leading theme in Ekaterina Kudryavtzeva's artistic work is "Leaves" – an ancient symbol of multiple meanings in China and Japan. This series of work is very Japanese in spirit and is utterly European by artistic technique (Part II).

Japanese Arts and Crafts and series of works by Lily Balasanova and Sergei Kolevatykh (Part I) are presented from October 17 till October 23, 2006 at The International Centre " Info-Space" at 4, Zachatyevsky 1, Per. Ekaterina Kudryavtzeva's series of works " Leaves" along with the selected photos of Japan by Tatiana Paleeva (Part II) will be on display at the "ARTPLAY" Centre from October 16 till November1, 2006.

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