ROSTISLAV ROMANOV

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With the support of

carpo

ROSTISLAV ROMANOV

"WAY OF LIFE"

DURATION OF EXHIBITION
14.05.2018 TO **18.05.2018**

C. John

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A FINE MIX OF ART
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[Entrance on Adam's Row]

Rostislav Romanov creates artworks full of vibration. His dark and joyful colours leap at the viewer full of vigour, a key characteristic of abstract expressionism. Yet his works often convey a tranquility as well.

Way of Life covers the working period of 2016-2018. Always in his signature thick impasto Rostislav's oil paintings now jump off the canvas, powerful, sculptural, three-dimensional. His pastels and prints become more and more abstract, and he talks of "tapping into a creativity that is not obvious, finding the shapes that are hiding in plain sight, between what one can and cannot see". He prints every single one of his etchings himself in his studio, rejecting any external input and keeping this a deeply personal collection of work.

Predominantly a landscape artist, and one who has embraced plein air painting with enthusiasm, Rostislav returns to well-loved locations and paints them again and again. He also now ventures into the realm of the imagination, particularly through his etchings and prints like "Descent Into Madness", or "Rye Bonfire Society Logo". He discovers new subjects in his travels, and is particularly drawn to his Russian roots, which capture his interest and creativity. He chooses lengthy, evocative, sometimes surreal names for his works, often detailing his own feelings as well as his subject, and they too form part of his narrative and the way he chooses to converse with the viewer.

The different techniques he employs to form this body of work keep mirroring and fueling each other. The folk themes of his Russian fairytale studies are transcribed into the more and more primitive brushstrokes of his oils. The plasticity of his oils translate into abstract shapes in his relief printing and dry-point acid etchings that challenge the viewer to engage. The sculptural feeling evoked by his oils grounds the work to reality in direct contrast with the unreal iconography that he uses in his landscapes and carpaccios.

Rostislav lets the painting guide him to its completion, and this organic approach is often reflected back to the viewer with intensity and raw emotion. "The Last Leg of Light Before Darkness, From Hastings Studio 3 of 4 Triptych" invites the viewer to linger and rest his eyes, easygoing in its scale that minimises the sculptural effect of the artist's marks. The fiery intensity of the dying light in its last throes as the darkness encroaches vibrates with life-affirming exultation, and fills the viewer with unexpected comfort. In contrast in "The Little Red Triangle On Camber Sands" Rostislav returns to an iconography often encountered in his work, but this time the canvas is burgeoning with virility, the tempestuous brushstrokes belying the ultimate tranquility of the seaside scene.

Rostislav's work is full of contradiction: dark but joyful, tranquil but threatening, delicate but bursting with menace. "2 Salty Groynes, With The Added Saltiness Sunrise, Winchelsea Beach" is a perfect illustration of the mastery the artist holds over his medium, and his love affair with the ever-changing landscape.

Maria Migadi / *Art Historian*

01
2 Salty Groynes, With The Added Saltiness Sunrise, Winchelsea Beach (2018)
Oil on Canvas, 61 x 74 cm

02
Abstract Churches (2017)
Oil on Paper, 50.8 x 62.7cm

03
Atypical English Fields (2017)
Oil on Paper, 50.8 x 62.7cm

04
Black Birch Trees Just Before They Go To Sleep (2017)
Oil on Canvas, 61 x 74cm

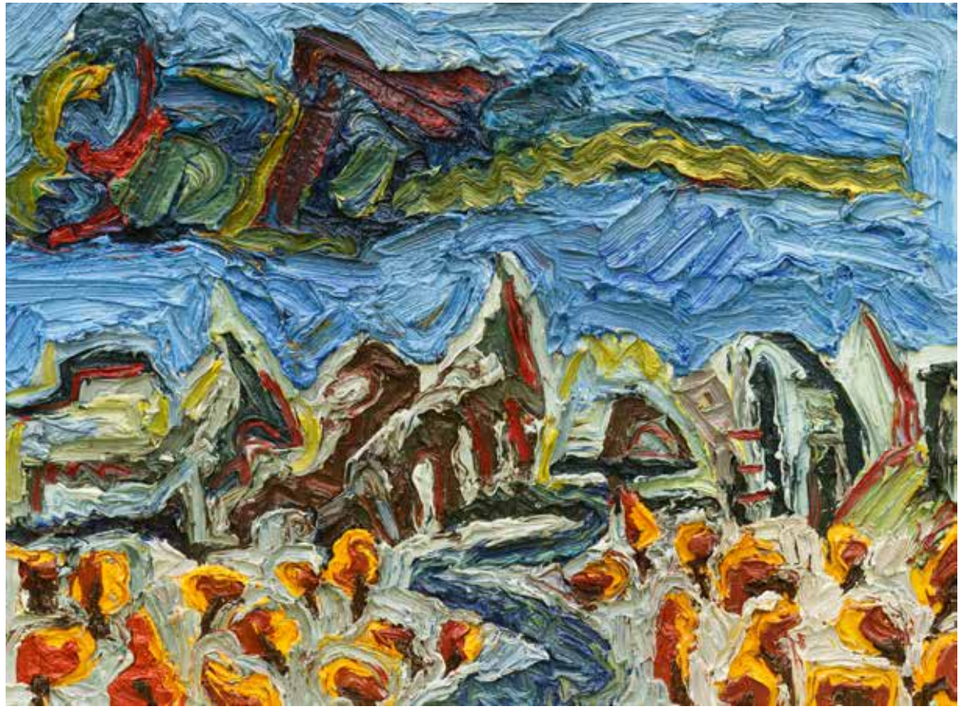
05
A Venik! (2017)
Oil on Canvas
49.5 x 63.5cm

06
Silver Birch Tree (2017)
Oil On Canvas
61 x 74cm

07
Russian Church Lost In Snow Forest (2017)
Oil on Paper, 50.8 x 62.7cm

08
French Foreign Legion, or Rehabilitation, or Death In Vladivostok (2017)
Oil on Paper, 50.8 x 62.7cm

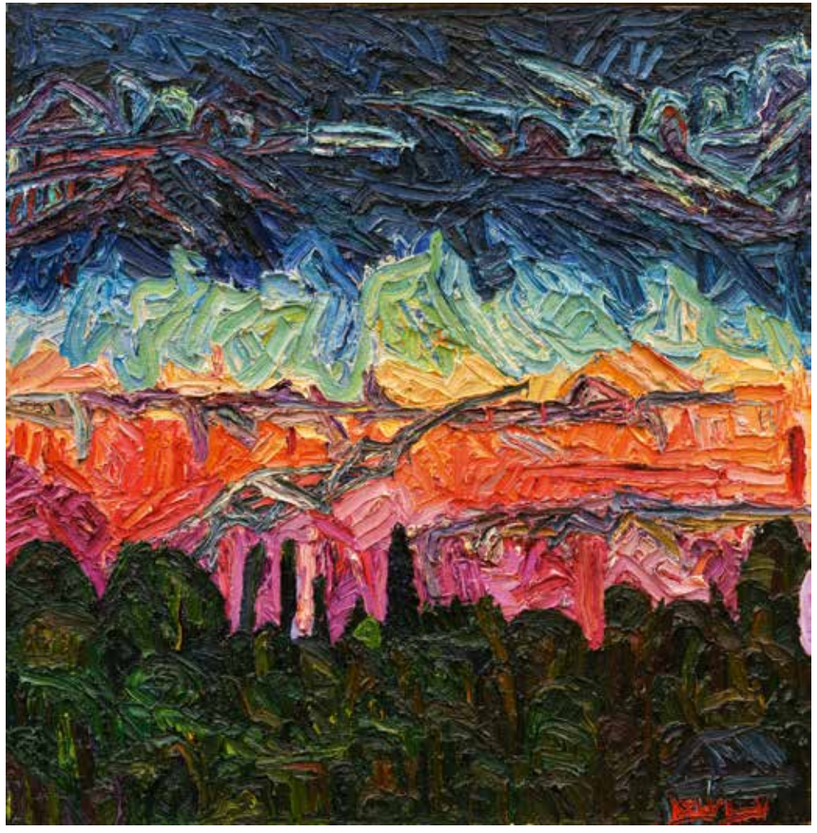
09
Psychedelic Golden Apple Tree (2017)
Oil On Paper, 50.8 x 62.7cm



10
Snow-covered Eurasian Mountainscape (2017)
Oil on Paper, 50.8 x 62.7cm

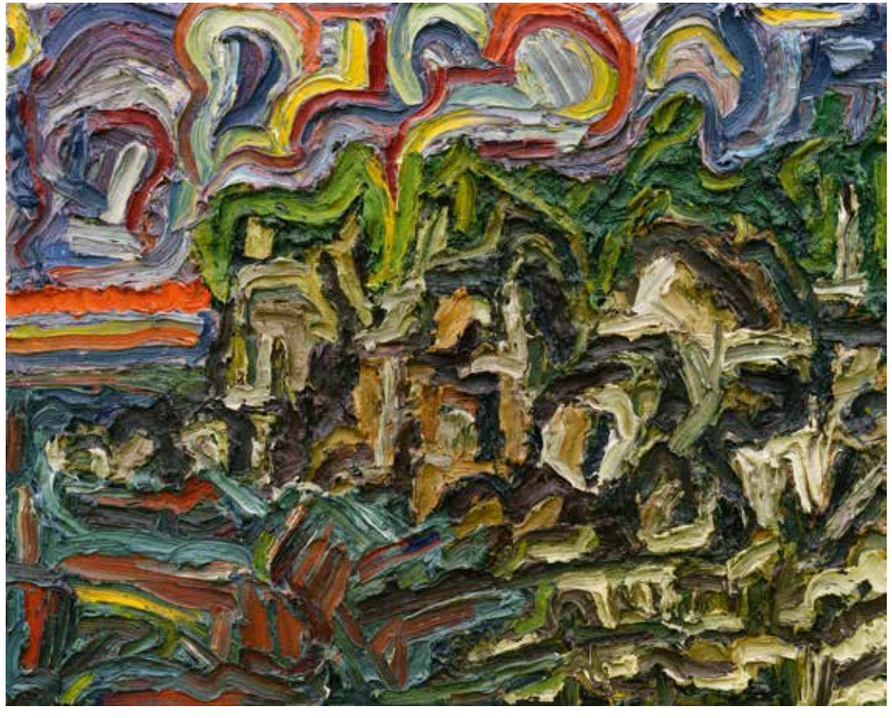
11
Epic Tree Fiddy Grows Through Salty Rock (2017)
Oil on Paper, 50.8 x 62.7cm

12
The Little Red Triangle On Camber Sands (2018)
Oil on canvas, 52.5 x 67.5cm



13
The Last Leg Of Light Before Darkness, From Hastings Studio 3 of 4 Triptych (2016)
Oil on Canvas
106.3 x 106.3cm
(From Maison D'Art Gallery, Monaco)

14
The Start Of The End Of The Day, From Hastings Studio, 2 of 4 Triptych (2016)
Oil on canvas
106.3 x 106.3cm
(From Maison D'Art Gallery, Monaco)



15
Sorrow Sunset Over Cliffs, On Winchelsea Beach (2018)
Oil on Canvas, 61 x 74cm

16
Groovy Dancing Birch Trees (2017)
Oil on Paper, 50.8 x 62.7cm

17
Summertime On Eurasian Mountainscape (2017)
Oil on Paper, 50.8 x 62.7cm

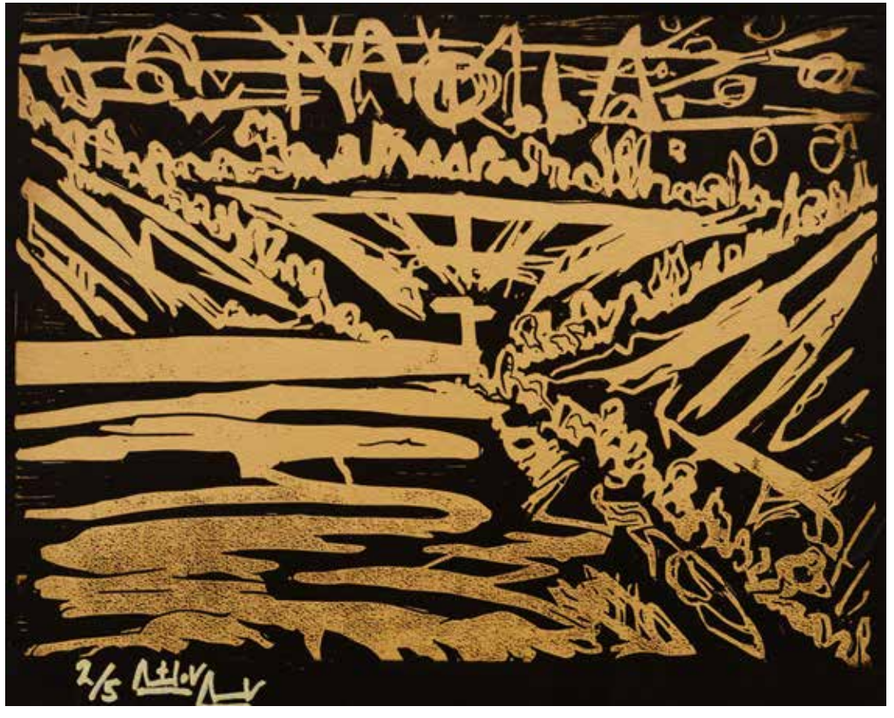
18
Epic Tree Fiddy Grows Through Salty Rock Lino (2017)
Oil Ink on Paper Print, 52.6 x 61.5cm

19
Apples Light Up Under The Starry Night Sky Lino (2017)
Oil Ink on Paper Print, 52.6 x 61.5cm

20
Snow-covered Eurasian Mountainscape Lino (2017)
Oil Ink on Paper Print, 52.6 x 61.5cm

21
Russian Church Lost In Snow Forest Lino (2017)
Oil Ink on Paper Print, 52.6 x 61.5cm

22
French Foreign Legion, or Rehabilitation, or Death In Vladivostok Lino (2017)
Oil Ink on Paper Print, 52.6 x 61.5cm



23
Atypical English Fields Lino (2017)
Oil Ink on Paper Print, 52.6 x 61.5cm

24

Russian Churches Line Up (2017)

Oil Ink on Paper Print, 52.6 x 61.5cm

25
Descent Into Madness (2018)
Dry Point Etching Print, 18 x 23cm

26
Rye Bonfire Society Logo (2018)
2 Colour Acid Etching Print, 18 x 23cm

27
Golden Tree (2018)
Acid Etching Print, 14.1 x 18.6cm

ROSTISLAV ROMANOV

Biography

EDUCATION
Canterbury UK, Kent Institute of Art & Design: BTEC Foundation Diploma in Art & Design > Merit

Falmouth UK, University College of Falmouth: BA (HONS) Fine Art

SOLO EXHIBITIONS
6th June 2016, Hastings and Beyond, private house, London, UK

3rd May 2014 Solo exhibition, Baker Mamanova Gallery, St Leonards-on-Sea, UK

3rd December 2011, Fabrica Gallery, Coupla, Moscow, Russia

JOINT EXHIBITIONS
22nd August-4th September 2017, Art in Mind, Brick Lane Gallery, London, UK

8th August-21st August 2017, Works on Paper, Brick Lane Gallery, London, UK

29th November-30th November 2016, Royal Bridges, The Ritz Carlton, Dubai International Financial Centre, Dubai, UAE

17th September 2016, Rye Festival, McCrane Gallery, Rye, East Sussex, UK

20th-24th July 2016, Monaco European Art Fair, Maison D' Art Gallery, Monaco

20th March 2014, A. Kasteev Art Museum, Almaty, Kazakhstan

17th November 2012, A. Kasteev Art Museum, Almaty, Kazakhstan

10th August 2012, with Michael B. White, private house, Rye, East Sussex, UK

FUTURE PROJECTS, COLLABORATIONS AND EXHIBITIONS
Collaboration with Ortaea Jewellery Company in Harvey Nichols, London creating two lines, 2018.

Collaboration with artist Daira Fursey and The Rare Books of Saint Petersburg publishing house, illustrating the story of "Prince Ivan, the Grey Wolf and the Fire Bird". Edition limited to 25 copies.

PRESS
Tatler UK, November Issue, 2017

Tatler UK, December Issue, 2016

Moon Board Magazine, 30th August 2016 http://www.moodboardmag.com/prince-rostislav-romanov/

Ragazzo Magazine, 30th August 2016, http://www.ragazzomagazine.com/single-post/2016/08/30/THE-PAINTING-PRINCE

Brighton Argus, 7 June 2016

Pulse UK, https://issuu.com/pulseuk/docs/513_lr

The Kompass, http://bit.ly/25MeS63

Hastings and St Leonards Observer, http://bit.ly/1U1DUdw

Bexhill-On-Sea Observer, http://bit.ly/25ASEnx

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