

FRIDAY



Avon Players of Rochester, (810) 376-1390, present "The Will Rogers Follies"

SATURDAY



"36," continues at the Aaron Deroy Theatre in the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield. Call (810) 788-2900 or (810) 645-6666.

SUNDAY



Ninth Annual Detroit Festival of the Arts, between New Center and Detroit's Theatre District, features non-stop entertainment, artists' marketplace, and children's fair. Call (313) 577-5088.



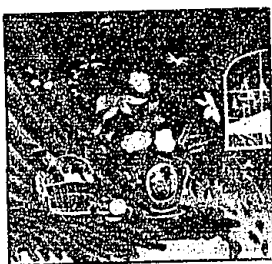
Hot six: Northville Players present "The Black Cloak," an adventurous melodrama, during the Victorian Festival, Sept. 15-17. Call (810) 349-7640 for festival information.

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

KEELY WYGONIK, EDITOR • 313-983-210

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Flowers: This vase full of flowers, from Yuri Gorbachev's still life collection, is painted with with strong, bright colors.

## Freedom fuels Gorbachev's creativity



Colorful landscape: Yuri Gorbachev paints colorful scenes from his native Russia. This one is titled "Autumn in Morozova."

BY LINDA ANN CHOMEN SPECIAL WRITER

It is art censored and on the run from danger with a wife and three children. Yuri Gorbachev left the Soviet Union more than four years ago to seek the unrestricted environment of America.

Looking at the 47-year-old internationally exhibited artist's paintings, the gaiety of animals and people deny the lack of freedom and creativity in his homeland.

Flat planes of vibrant color, pieced together in mosaic-like fashion, define a fantasy or utopia where life among the steeped structures is good.

Figures and animals float through the air, reminiscent of another Russian painter, Marc Chagall. Horses dash simply gray in Gorbachev's paintings. They romp in the fields, their manes blowing in one direction, their legs running seemingly at odds in another.

These red, yellow, blue, green and orange horses as well as the half-woman, half-horse creatures are charismatic works of art by a man who loves animals and people.

If you've ever wondered what life as an artist is like in Russia, just ask Gorbachev. He will tell you frankly because for 20 years he worked in ceramics there.

Meek Gorbachev, grand-nephew of former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Saturday, Sept. 16, at the Europa Art Gallery in West Bloomfield.

A portion of the sales from private receptions Sept. 14-16 and public showings Sept. 16-17 will go toward establishing a fine arts scholarship in Gorbachev's name at the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit.

"My life in Russia very difficult, now is free. Nudo in Russia five years ago (you) can't do. Five years ago was different. They control you. They check you, limit you. Make everything I want, here. I make nudo, more bright (painting). America make me more free, more independent," Gorbachev said in an interview from his New York home.

"In Russia is lot of problem with revolution, every, situation is very dangerous. Make everything I want, here. In Russia some people like some people hate Gorbachev but people who hate, double hate (me because of) my name. Gorbachev is very dangerous name and if you make a lot of money people hate you."

Not to misunderstand, this Russian painter misses his country and its people.

"Emotionally I was more happy in Russia. I like my country very much.



Artistic freedom: Yuri Gorbachev left the Soviet Union more than four years ago to seek the unrestricted environment of America. He will be at Europa Art Gallery in West Bloomfield on Saturday.

Meet the artist: Yuri Gorbachev, grand-nephew of former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. When: Noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16. Where: Europa Art Gallery, 6335 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. (810) 855-2160.

Exhibit details: The 43-piece exhibit of Yuri Gorbachev's paintings continues through Oct. 16. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Sunday.

Russian people very cultured, very educated," Gorbachev said.

"I heard about America. Art life is very busy in America. Art life is more alive. New York is more alive with more than 500 galleries."

### Style

Gorbachev, who terms his art "naive primitive, a new naive," studied art for 10 years at the Borovichi Ceramics Institute in St. Petersburg and the Pedagogical Institute in Odessa, and philosophy for five years in Leningrad. His art has been exhibited in Indonesia and Australia. His ceramics are in the permanent collection of the Louvre in Paris.

Gorbachev turned to painting in 1990 after Mikhail Baryshnikov saw one of his ceramic wall plaques at an exhibit in New York and asked him to do a painting after it. He has painted prolifically since.

Gorbachev makes hundreds of sketches before beginning the paintings. After laying down background

color on the canvas, he carves a drawing into the wet paint. Adding more color, Gorbachev then fills in the drawn lines with gold enamel. The final bright colors thickly laid on enrich the painting before he brushes on several layers of varnish giving the painting the look of cloisonne.

"In the world is a lot of negative energy. Most people would like to have happy (scene), strong beauty, strong color, bright color."

"The oil canvases use a lot of gold in the Byzantine style. Russian icons 200 years ago (used) a lot of gold. It's a connection with past Russian gold."

Life in America impacted Gorbachev's style and brightened his palette. What does this Russian artist hope to relay through this work?

"Moving here changed my color. My color more bright. My paintings are very happy, have strong energy. People like more and more. They're very positive."

That's exactly why Arthur Bricker and John Tunis chose to open their new Europa Art Gallery with an exhibit of Gorbachev's art.

The Gorbachev name, his recent campaign with Stolichnaya vodka, the influx of Russian emigre to this area, along with Gorbachev's talent, popularity, magnetism and happy and colorful techniques were all contributing factors in inviting him to Detroit and the 1,600-square-foot space next door to their Bricker-Tunis Furrier, said Arthur Bricker, who has been collecting art for 30 years.

"People in the U.S. haven't seen naive primitivism. It's actually Ukrainian art. It's African art with references to vestigial masks, ceremonial and mythological themes. It's very joyful. It's fun. The same things Gorbachev does in clay, he does in oils. These are special pieces. All of the great masters did the African motif, African masks," Bricker said.

"Americans don't want things with heavy religious themes or political statements. That's why most of the 17th century art is in the museums."

Bricker and Tunis plan to show European art primarily, much of it acquired from artists' estates, in their fine art gallery.

Yuri Gorbachev instills happiness into the oil paintings he creates with bright colors in mosaic-like patterns

### MUSIC

## Philharmonic features superstar violinist

BY KEELY WYGONIK STAFF WRITER

She's only 16, but violinist Tamaki Kawakubo is already a superstar.

"Normally, a community orchestra would never get a soloist of this caliber to perform with them because their fees are so high," said Farmington Area Philharmonic founder and music director Karen Nixon Lane.

"I found out that she would be with the Lansing on Sept. 23 to perform with the greater Lansing Symphony, and go in touch with her agent."

Lane learned about Kawakubo's Lansing concert from the symphony's music director, Gustav Meier. "He was my instructor at University of Michigan," said Lane. "We're co-authoring a conducting textbook."

Kawakubo, who appeared with the

Section: Paganini & Pinas. Sunday, Sept. 22, 7 p.m. at the Farmington Area Philharmonic. Tickets: \$10, \$15, \$20, \$25, \$30, \$35, \$40, \$45, \$50, \$55, \$60, \$65, \$70, \$75, \$80, \$85, \$90, \$95, \$100. Call (810) 349-7640 for tickets.

Boston Pops this summer, will be performing Sept. 24 at the Farmington Area Philharmonic's opening Casual Classics Series concert in the Clooney Auditorium at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills.

"We're delighted to be able to bring a young instrumentalist of this caliber to our community," said Lane. "I'm stressing variety and outstanding soloists in this year's season."

The concert of Italian music on Sept. 24 is titled "Rossini, Paganini and Pinas." It will include works from the Italian opera repertoire including Rossini's overture to "L'italiana in Algeri" and Verdi's Prelude to Act 1 from "La Traviata," as well as Respighi's orchestral favorite, "The Pines of Rome."

Violinist continued inside

### Casual Classics schedule

- "Hot Battered Papa" - 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, Redford Theatre - music from the movies.
- "La Jalousie fatale" - 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21, Clooney Auditorium, Mercy High School - Canadian-born lyric coloratura Nancy Hamilton joins the orchestra for a program celebrating outrageous females from opera and Broadway.
- "Atheater" - 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25, Clooney Auditorium, Mercy High School - Internationally renowned pianist Dick Ataman will perform Prokofiev's "Third Concerto."

### Dates to be announced

- "Winterfest Favorites" - Traditional Holiday Classics.
- "American Classics" - Music Director Karen Nixon Lane shares the podium with band leader Dr. Leonard S. Smith in honor of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Detroit Concert Band.

Tamaki Kawakubo