

"End of Summer" oil on canvas, 31" x 35"

THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT

Russian artist Yevgeni Shchukin widens the soul.

BY SARA FORD

The art of Yevgeni Shchukin, one of Russia's most extraordinary and highly gifted painters, emanates from deep within, where yearning, sorrow, passion, and joy are the universal language of the human spirit. In his works, these emotions are a symbolic and lyrical alphabet, brilliantly arranged by the artist, so he can share ancient and timeless stories, narratives that bridge the emotional breadth of the human experience.

Shchukin's enigmatic work is compelling, each piece a dramatic force. At first glance, viewers are overwhelmed by the painter's vibrant energy, a powerful connection that beckons us to linger as his vision unfolds.

Dianna Lennon, founder of Santa Fe's Art of Russia Gallery, the exclusive worldwide representative and print publisher for Shchukin's art, describes him as an avant garde artist of the twenty-first century, who

uses a combination of techniques, including those of the old masters. "Shchukin has a magnificent sense of color, balance, and composition," Lennon observes. "His work is his life."

There is far more to this painter than his mastery of technique, according to Lennon. "His intellect is encyclopedic," she informs. "Shchukin has studied mythology, history, biography, and different religions, not

just Russian.” As a result, his intuitive works include thought-provoking symbolism, archetypal figures, geometrical balance, and exquisite colors that intensify the power of his art.

Other striking aspects in Shchukin’s work are musical and theatrical symbols. Instruments are often used in his pieces, creating a lyrical effect that heightens senses. Viewers find themselves listening to the melody in his art.

Shchukin’s figurative works are fluid and graceful, calling to mind dancers, both folk and ballet. The artist seems to feel movement. Allegorical themes create charming mysteries, or parables, that involve viewers, who instinctively begin a personal search for the moral to the tale. The masterful use of light and color in each piece heightens the dramatic effect.

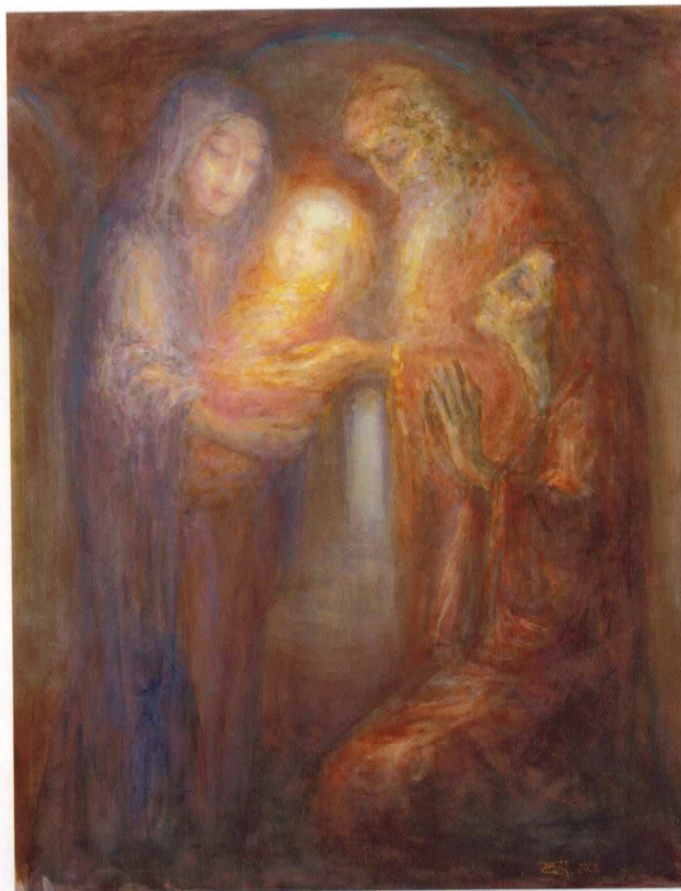
Shchukin was born in Odessa in 1959. His mother, a passionate Spanish dancer and ballet teacher, greatly influenced her son, inspiring in him a love of dance, painting, theater, and museums. A bout of pneumonia forced him to give up ballet, so Shchukin turned to painting. Although largely self-taught, he graduated from the Odessa Theater and Fine Arts Academy.

During the day, Shchukin worked as a draftsman, designing propaganda art, while concentrating on his own painting at night. He completed mandatory service in the military, serving in Afghanistan.

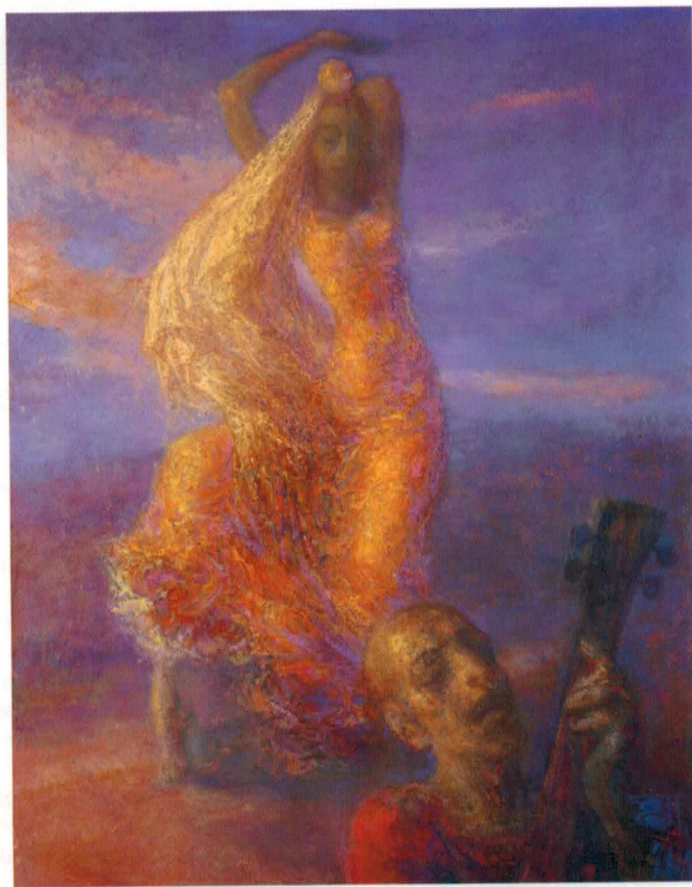
That experience broadened his soul, leaving Shchukin with a greater empathy and understanding of human suffering, a poignancy balanced with exuberance and joy. “It’s spiritual,” Lennon relates. “People viewing his work see different aspects, but it awakens them, connecting them with something quite deep and unfamiliar. He reveals who we are through his work. People lose their souls if they cannot understand themselves.”



Shchukin will sign his poster, “Russian Summer in Santa Fe,” on September 24 from 5:00-8:00 at the Art of Russia Gallery, 200 Canyon Road. His paintings, many of which are available in high quality, limited edition, signed and numbered prints are always on view at the gallery, open daily from 10:00-5:00. 505-466-1718. www.artofrussia-gallery.com.



“Presentation,” watercolor, 27” × 35”



“Road of Dance,” oil on canvas, 27½” × 35½”