



PRESS RELEASE

EXHIBITION

ANA TZAREV

*“THE LIFE OF FLOWERS”*

*14 JULY – 4 SEPTEMBER 2011*

*Engineers' (St. Michael's) Castle, 2 Sadovaya Ulitsa  
Saint Petersburg*

On July 14, the Engineers' (St. Michael's) Castle of the State Russian Museum will host an exhibition of paintings by the Monaco-based artist Ana Tzarev (b. 1937). "Life of Flowers" is the first showing of her work in Russia. The art work of Tzarev has already met with great success and critical acclaim in New York, London, Dubai, and Vietnam. The current exhibition, which is curated by the Russian Museum and features 52 paintings created over the last decade, has special personal significance for the artist because it marks a return to her historical roots. Her maternal ancestors came from the Russian Empire.

Ana Tzarev recalls, "my mother's last name was, Tzareva, and her ancestors were Russian on both sides. I grew up in an atmosphere of Russian folk tales told by my grandmother. Later, while working as a buyer and designer, fate brought me to Russia. I was amazed by the beauty of Russian churches and art. Russian art is my type of art. In Russian painting, I fell in love with the rich colors – the gold, red, blue and green. After discovering these colors, I felt the sensation of being at home, and this feeling has not left me since. I feel that my soul is Russian, and I express this in my work every day."

The artist's Russian soul is also expressed in her concern for society's future, especially for children. Therefore, in June 2011, she donated 20 giclee prints of her works, from the Russian Fairy Tale series, to the Children's Cancer Center in Moscow.

The paintings in the current exhibition were inspired by impressions accumulated during voyages to Africa, Asia, Hawaii, and southern Europe. These artworks reflect her deep knowledge of culture and nature, and are the result of an intimate study of flowers from all over the world. They offer poetic depictions of tropical plants in Hawaii, magnolias in New Zealand, wild flowers in Africa, sunflowers in the South of France, and Japanese water lilies, which are symbols of good luck, peace and enlightenment.

Ana Tzarev works with large canvasses in order to give the audience a chance to see her flowers big, bold, and larger than life; one could imagine that this is the vantage point of how an insect might view them, where details such as the buds, the stamen, and the petals are magnified.

Ana has loved flowers since a child, and over the years this hobby has grown into a passion. During her life, she has worked consistently designing her own private gardens, creating spectacular landscapes reflecting the places where her studios are. Ana Tzarev's in-depth visual vocabulary of flowers comes from a life of traveling widely, visiting places far from the tourist routes in order to witness the splendor local flora.

The artist explains, "All my life I was in love with flowers. They accompany us from birth to death, giving beauty and inspiring joy and sorrow. In every corner of our vast world we find unique specimens of flowers, and I learn from them, and preserve them to bloom on my canvases for future generations."

Ana's paintings have been received with acclaim by prominent critics. According to Alexander Borovsky, director of contemporary art at the Russian Museum, "Ana has developed a powerful signature style that dates back to the force of Post-impressionism: open colors with pronounced brush strokes; but to be more precise, it is sometimes a mirage of brush strokes that drift optically in space. Her method is primarily a type of modeling of different layers that blend hand contact with paint and canvas. The world that she creates appears demiurgic by itself."

Continuing and developing the tradition of the Post-impressionists, Tzarev has nevertheless developed her own recognizable style. Her intense colors and vibrant style convey the splendor, vitality and diversity of exotic floral destinations with great energy. Ana Tzarev's paintings conquer with force and freshness, and emit a grand and reassuring perception of the boundless natural world.

For more information please contact the press office of the State Russian Museum at [press@rusmuseum.ru](mailto:press@rusmuseum.ru)

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