

Russian flair charms gala crowd

Russian culture, in all its vibrant color and emotional richness, took center stage at The Union League of Philadelphia's plush Lincoln and McMichael rooms as nearly 200 persons enjoyed Studio Incamminati's third annual benefit gala "To Russia, With Love," Oct. 22.

Of course, there was the quiet elegance of traditional caviar and vodka. But, there were also the frenetic excitement of whirling Cossack dancers and ringing Balalaikas. All of that served as the perfect backdrop to preview

—and celebrate—Nelson Shanks' solo Russian exhibition in spring 2011.

The Russian Museum in St. Petersburg, followed by The Russian Academy of Arts in Moscow, will play host to more than 45 works by Shanks. He is one of a select few living American artists to be invited to display his work. Gala guests were treated to 18 paintings, 10 newly painted, which will be part of the exhibitions. The event was chaired by Dan and Dr. Monica DiLella and co-chairs Frank and Dottie Giordano. ♦



Gala guests thrilled to artwork, Russian delicacies and entertainment

Art tour beckons

In celebration of Nelson's historic exhibition, Studio Incamminati is offering a chance to see the exhibition—and help the studio. The "To Russia, With Love" art tour is an exclusive custom-designed travel program for



Visit the exclusive tour website for photos, travel facts and the latest tour news.

Studio Incamminati friends. Two versions of a spectacular eight-night tour take travelers to Moscow and St. Petersburg, culminating with the private opening of Nelson Shanks' exhibition at the Russian Museum.

www.StudioIncamminatiRussianArtTour.com or contact Lesley Ford at The CTP Group at 818-444-2703 or Lesley@ctptravel.com ♦

High-level gathering

It was a breathtaking view—46 stories in the air—that thrilled special guests who attended a private pre-gala reception at the new residence of Tom and Linda Knox at the Residences at Two Liberty Place ♦



1. From left, Leona Shanks, Frank and Dottie Giordano, Nelson Shanks, Monica and Dan DiLella, and hosts Tom and Linda Knox
2. Linda Knox with Lily, who also seemed to enjoy the event.

Once again, a reminder of art that inspires

Although it always is a great honor working with the many talented artists at Studio Incamminati, sometimes, caught up in the day-to-day crush of business, I don't fully appreciate what is here. However, it's never long before I am reminded of how special this place is. The most recent example comes from Nelson Shanks, our artistic leader, who is now in the midst of preparing for an historic one-man exhibition in Russia.

Nelson's historic Russian exhibition of 48 works of art—including many works never seen before—travels to The Russian Museum in St. Petersburg and The Russian Academy of Arts in Moscow. Few American artists hold the honor of such an exhibition.

I know many of you are planning to travel to Russia. If you are, in celebration of this great achievement, we invite you to join us on our "To Russia, With Love" art tour. Two custom-

designed travel packages were created especially for friends and colleagues of Studio Incamminati and they include a tax-deductible contribution to continue our educational mission. See www.StudioIncamminatiRussianArtTour.com, for the latest information. The tour is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to sample the rich cultural traditions of Russia with Nelson, an international treasure from our own backyard.

Jay Pennie
Executive Director

Studio Incamminati welcomes your support. For information, please call Executive Director Jay Pennie at 215.592.1918.

Meet our new artists

Each group of new artists brings its own stories. In many ways, the stories are different: one was a marine, one a federal prosecutor, one a house painter. But always, they share the passion to pursue their art. They come to Studio Incamminati because it was the one place that satisfied the desire to learn not only theory but the skills needed to achieve meaningful art.

LESLIE BOHN

Previous life: In graphic design and the fashion industry

Leslie was drawn to Studio Incamminati after her husband came across the school on an Internet search. But, it was an Open House visit that clinched the deal for the Norristown, PA resident. "As soon as I saw the student work," she says, "I wanted to come here." She finds daily motivation from seeing the improvement in her work and that of fellow students.



BARBARA LEWIS

Previous life: Professional artist; occasional teacher

Barbara found herself at a plateau in her artistic career and needing help, she says she was unable to find elsewhere. Barbara, who lives in Doylestown, PA, credits the new part-time program with making it possible to attend Studio Incamminati. "I have not regretted the decision," she says.



DAVID MAHLMAN

Previous life: Artist, house painter

David, from Philadelphia, says the realization his life would change hit him when he was informed of his acceptance into the Full-time Professional Program "I thought about all the intense training under such talented artists," he says. "I couldn't wait for the semester to start." His understanding of the steps in developing a drawing, he says, has been a revelation.



ANDREW McMANUS

Previous life: US Marine Corps sergeant

The walls of art during a studio tour convinced Andrew this was the place for him. "Most other places would consider work like this exceptional," the Philadelphia resident says, "at Incamminati the exceptional is commonplace. Each class has meant different concepts, materials, techniques, aesthetics and that has left me far better equipped to make successful paintings."



BARBARA MOQUIN

Previous life: Artist and internet sales impresario

While attending a winter workshop several years ago, Barbara says she "knew attending the school was for me," and made the move from her home in central Pennsylvania. And, she hasn't been disappointed. "To work in such an intense, hands-on environment and receive thorough teaching," she says, has made a dramatic impact on her artwork.



MARY ORR

Previous life: Designer and illustrator

Mary says it was the new Part-time Professional Program that made it possible to juggle family responsibilities and the passion to paint. The community of students and teachers has been key to advancing her skills. "Their willingness to share their knowledge and skills," she says, "in a very supportive environment has been inspiring."



SIMMY PELL

Previous life: Full-time mom, tennis instructor

Simmy, one of the first members of the new Part-time Professional Program, loves the "total immersion in studio environment" enabling her to "laser focus." She says the required work in charcoal has given her a shot of confidence and she is looking forward to carrying over her new skills to her paintings.



RACHEL PIERSON

Previous life: Federal prosecutor, mother of three

Though she lived 170 miles away in Virginia, the moment she received the email announcing the Part-time Professional Program, Rachel knew she was headed for Studio Incamminati. "The commitment to teaching, plus world-class talent in their own right," she says, "makes the faculty the best in the world."



RICHELLE SHELTON

Previous life: Graphic designer, design patent examiner

Richelle, who loved the teaching in an Intensive Painting workshop she attended, decided to commit to the Full-time Professional Program. She is continually inspired by the artwork on the studio walls which, she says, "keeps me encouraged as evidence of the studio curriculum's success."



JUDITH ST. LEDGER-ROTY

Previous life: Attorney

Judith had come to the conclusion she needed the assistance of skilled painters/teachers to achieve her personal artistic goals. Judith, a Virginia resident, says the emphasis on abstract shape and their relationship to one another has "freed me to see form and gesture more accurately and quickly."



ADELBERT YUPARI

Previous life: Student, Maryland Institute College of Art

According to Adelbert, a visit to the school had him "full of joy to see that people actually cared about drawing and painting." He enjoys the simple, logical steps that progress to the complex. "I love the process. The knowledge the instructors have given me is incredible."



Annual exhibition comes to Center City

The Artists of Studio Incamminati Exhibition, already a much-anticipated look at some of the best in contemporary realist art, on April 15–21 becomes the backdrop for a series of exciting events ranging from a Nelson Shanks master painting demonstration to a tribute of the upcoming royal wedding between Prince William and Kate Middleton.



Freeman's Auctioneers & Appraisers a fixture on Philadelphia's Chestnut Street

Historic Freeman's Auctioneers & Appraisers is the setting for the exhibition and the events which also include a VIP preview reception with art auction/sale, a display of Nelson and Leona Shanks' rare Princess Diana memorabilia and Nelson's new painting of the late princess. That artwork features Diana wearing the engagement ring William gave to Kate. Other exclusive events feature radio talk-

show host Michael Smerconish leading a Royal Wedding discussion with CBS British royal affairs commentator Patrick Jephson and Her Majesty's Honorary Consul, Oliver St. Clair Franklin, OBE.

Passersby on Chestnut Street get an entertaining glimpse of the creative process when Studio Incamminati artists perform live-model painting demonstrations in Freeman's storefront windows throughout the week.

The Shanks link with the royal family goes back decades to Nelson Shanks painting the original portrait of Diana that still hangs in the royal family home, Althorp. That experience led to a close friendship with the princess.

The exhibition and events are sponsored by Freeman's Auctioneers & Appraisers and hosted by the Friends of Studio Incamminati. ♦

The Artists of Studio Incamminati Exhibition
April 15–21, 2011

Monday-Thursday, 10–5:30 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, 11–5 p.m.

Freeman's Auctioneers & Appraisers

1808 Chestnut St.

Philadelphia, PA

www.StudioIncamminati.org/freemans

Artist Accolades

Instructor Kerry Dunn's portrait "Matt" was awarded First Prize in the 2010 Laumeister Fine Art Competition at the Bennington Center for the Arts. Nearly 50 entries from around the world were accepted into the juried competition including work by Studio Incamminati instructor JaFang Lu. The works also were on exhibit at the Bennington, VT center.



International Artist magazine featured Instructor Lea Wight in conjunction with her role as faculty member at the Portrait Society of America's Art of the Portrait conference, April 28–May 1. June 22–26, Lea joins fellow instructor Stephen Early and studio Co-founder and Artistic Director Nelson Shanks for American Artist's Weekend with the Masters Intensive: New York City.



Natalie Italiano's work "Chinese Bench" was awarded placement in the Member's Only Competition of the Portrait Society of America. The competition received more than 300 entries.



Artwork from instructors Jon deMartin, Kerry Dunn, Stephen Early and Dan Thompson was among the more than 100 pieces from notable painters accepted into "Star Wars: Visions," Abrams Books. The book, the brainchild of Star Wars creator George Lucas, invited artists to share personal visions based on the Star Wars galaxy. ♦



MATT
Kerry Dunn,
2010,
Oil on canvas,
22" x 22"



WAITING FOR INSPIRATION
JaFang Lu, 2010
Oil on canvas, 16" x 20"



CHINESE BENCH
Natalie Italiano, 2010
Oil on canvas, 24" x 17"



Studio Incamminati
Instructors are featured
artists in the book.

In grateful recognition *continued from page 4*

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