



The collected works of the Russian Oil Painting program at the Bernard Betel Centre

ABOUT THE EXHIBIT

The Russian Oil Painting program at the Bernard Betel Centre is a cornerstone for many older Russian-speaking artists in the Bathurst-Steeles community. These artists attend the program each week despite numerous family obligations, work schedules, and some physical barriers that come along with aging. When asked why she paints, one of the artists responded, "Painting is the most natural thing for me."

This collection of landscape and still-life paintings captures both a deep shared tradition and highly personal experiences. Russian art institutions have long praised a realist approach. These traditional roots form a foundation for many of the featured artists, and simultaneously creates a jumping-point for more gestural and expressive brushstrokes. The artists' experiences of living in Russia and/or other Eastern European nations as well as moving to Canada provides a complex and particular groundwork for representing land and space.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

The Russian Oil Painting program is facilitated by Viktoria Berdichevski and Miriam Reisher. Viktoria attended the Moscow School of Art before moving to Canada. She has practiced art for over 30 years and loves teaching in the community. Miriam is a dedicated volunteer who received art trained in the former U.S.S.R. The other 13 artists who participate in the Russian Oil Painting program have had a variety of meaningful careers, from physicians to professional photographers, before discovering their affinity for painting. With their children grown and careers winding down, many of them have more time to dedicate to their passions.

The work of *Keep The Light* is for sale. Support local artists. Bring art into your life

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The Gallery at the J
Miles Nadal JCC

January 5 – 30, 2019

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 9:00 pm

Saturday - Sunday 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Gallery info: (416) 924-6211 x250

www.mnjcc.org

Gallery Coordinator Deanna Di Lello

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