

GREENING

VIKTOR BUTKO



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26 Main Street, Sag Harbor, New York
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Long overdue, here is our first catalogue of our highly respected Russian born and trained painter **Viktor Butko (b. 1978, Moscow)**. Well on his way to having a distinguished international career, Butko has shown work in museums and galleries around the world almost every year since he was 22 years old. He is also already represented in several museum collections. Butko's work immediately stood out for its draftsmanship and compositional excellence at the inaugural show of the Russian American Painting Alliance in 2016. Over the years, our clients have also noticed Butko's excellence, as many of his paintings sell as soon as they are delivered to the gallery. Since the paintings find homes so quickly, we decided that it was important to show the best works in this catalogue, even though some of them are already sold.

I first met Butko with a group of 4 Russians, and almost twice as many Americans, when they all arrived in the Hamptons in October 2016, after painting together in Maine. Ben Fenske and I formed the Russian American Painting Alliance to reciprocate an invitational painting trip that a group of Grenning Gallery painters had attended in 2014 to Plyos, Russia. On that trip, despite the language barrier, a fast friendship formed, and Butko and Fenske began painting together. The day I met Butko, the only thing I could glean from our conversation was his question "Where could he buy a big bag of potatoes (for eating) and Vodka (to warm him up while painting out in the frigid autumn air)". Butko's relationship to the Grenning Gallery and the American painting scene has only grown from there, as well as his ability to speak English. He has permanently relocated to the Boston area, where he lives and paints with his American wife. He also spends several months a year living on Shelter Island and painting local scenes here.

As the third generation in a family of painters, ensconced in classical training, Butko's singular focus on creating art has served him well. His unfettered dedication reveals itself as he works in one inspired series after another. Shelter Island any time of day, any time of year inspires him. The heavy snowfalls last winter brought out his Russian roots, and he painted some of the most charming snow scenes of the East End I have ever seen. Intoxicated by the twilight sky and a smudge of moonlight has yielded a wonderful series of moonscapes on the East End. We are excited to be a part of Viktor Butko's unfolding career, especially as we get to be in the wake of his rich and painterly approach to our local landscape.

Laura Grenning | July 2021

GRENNING | GALLERY

Detail of "Cold Wind," 25 x 30 inches, Oil on Linen, 2020





"Boats at Secret Beach"
25 x 30 inches, Oil on Linen, 2020



"Osprey's Sunset"
39.5 x 47 inches, Oil on Linen, 2020



“Shelter Island Pond”
25 x 30 inches, Oil on Canvas, 2019



“On the way to Ram Island”
36 x 44 inches, Oil on Linen, 2020



“Waterfront Marina, Dock House”
16 x 20 inches, Oil, 2017



“Village View”
18 x 24 inches, Oil on Canvas, 2016



“Cloudy Moonrise”
36 x 44 inches, Oil, 2021



“Deer Park Lane”
22 x 28 inches, Oil on Canvas, 2018



“Over the Pond, Evening Light”
35 x 43 inches, Oil on Linen, 2020



“The Old Pier”
25 x 30 inches, Oil on Linen, 2020



“Pink Moon, Provincetown”
40 x 47 inches, Oil, 2021



"Life is Good"
20 x 24 inches, Oil on Linen, 2020



"Dappled Light on the Hill"
36 x 40 inches, Oil on Linen, 2020



"Bug Light from Ram Island Drive"
36 x 40 inches, Oil on Linen, 2020



"Ram Island Road in Winter"
36 x 44 inches, Oil on Linen, 2021



“Chairs”
19.5 x 31.5 inches, Oil on Canvas, 2016



“Full Moon Over Shelter Island”
36 x 40 inches, Oil on Linen, 2020



"Sailboat at Rest"
25 x 30 inches, Oil on Linen, 2020



"Stormy Evening Secret Beach"
40 x 47 inches, Oil on linen, 2021



“Snowy Morning, Gardiners Bay Drive”
30 x 36 inches, Oil on Linen, 2021



“Golden Evening”
32 x 40 inches, Oil on Linen, 2021



"In the Woods"
28 x 22 inches, Oil on Linen, 2020



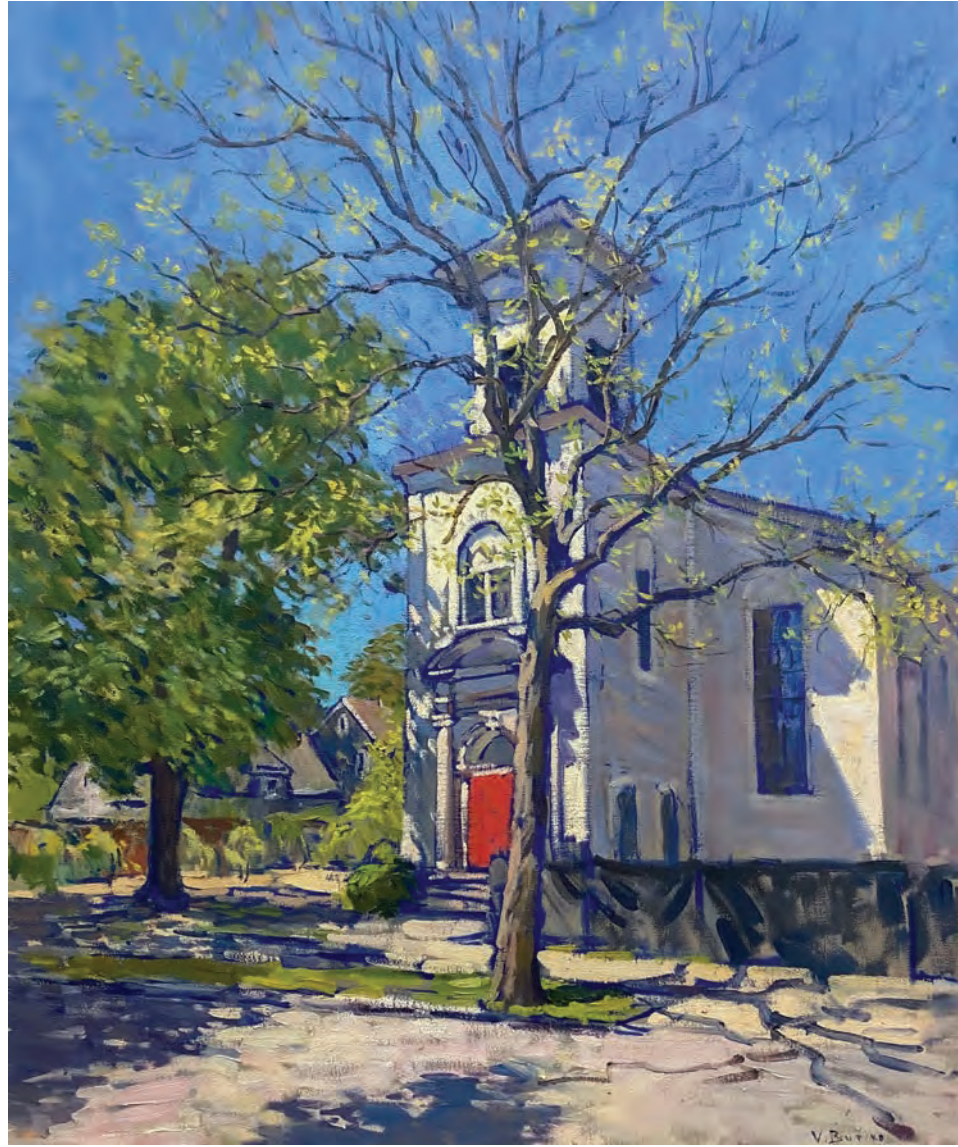
"Hay Bales in the Snow"
30 x 36 inches, Oil on Linen, 2021



“Spring is Getting Closer”
32 x 40 inches, Oil on Linen, 2020



“Blue Creek”
41 x 41 inches, Oil on Linen, 2020



“Red Door, Sag Harbor Church”
36 x 30 inches, Oil on Linen, 2020



“Along the River”
40 x 47 inches, Oil, 2021



“Clear Blue Skies”
20 x 24 inches, Oil on Canvas, 2018



“Breakwater Yacht Club”
18 x 24.25 inches, Oil on Canvas, 2016



“Montauk Cliffs”
31.5 x 39.3 inches, Oil, 2017



"Evening, Madison Street"
22 x 28 inches, Oil, 2017



"Evening Light, Main Street"
23.6 x 27.5 inches, Oil on Canvas, 2016



"The Hannibal French House"
25 x 30 inches, Oil, 2018



"Sag Harbor Village Marina at Sunset"
32 x 40 inches, Oil on Linen, 2020



"Docks at Dering Harbor"
32.5 x 40.25 inches, Oil on Canvas, 2019



"Light of the Setting Sun"
32 x 40 inches, Oil on Linen, 2019



“Sunny Lilacs”
27.5 x 28.8 inches, Oil, 2019



“Lilacs on a Table”
20 x 24 inches, Oil on Canvas, 2018



“Wolffer Estate Vineyard”
31.5 x 39.5 inches, Oil on Canvas, 2018

Viktor Butko was born into a family of artists in Moscow in 1978. He often visited the studio of his grandfather, the famous artist Victor Chulovich, where upon seeing the live creation of oil paintings, his imagination was ignited. Butko's first steps in art were directed by his grandfather and then his parents, who are also notable artists in Russia; Nickolay Butko and Marina Chulovich. When he came of age, Butko studied at the Moscow Art School, a leading center for classical training at the time. After school, Butko was honored to be invited to paint at the Academic Dacha of Artists, which was originally created by the great 19th century Russian artist Ilya Repin. The retreat was specifically designed for top post graduate students of the Academy of Fine Arts. There, Butko worked under the guidance of notable artists Alexey Gritsay and others Alexei and Sergei Tkachev. The latter pair had a big influence on the creative path of his work. The Tkachev brothers, older and respected Russian impressionist artists, claim that Butko's work is the "...next generation of greatness".

In 1998, when Butko was a mere 20 years old, famed American collectors of Russian art Ray Johnson, Jim Dabakis and Vern Swenson discovered him. They met him while scouring the studio building for famous Soviet artists' work to buy for their growing collection, which is now housed at the Museum of Russian Art in Minneapolis (TMORA). They came looking for Butko's grandfather's work but saw Butko's sketches and offered to help him get a US show. Butko's first solo show was held a few years later in 2002 at the McCarthy Gallery in Park City, Utah. McCarthy was

one of the foremost dealers in the United States for Russian Impressionist paintings. This marked the beginning of a long cooperation with McCarthy Gallery. In fact, Butko has been showing regularly in the US, Russia and China since he was 22 years old. In 2016, Butko accepted an invitation from the Russian American Painting Alliance, founded by Ben Fenske and Laura Grenning. There he joined close to 15 painters for a month in Maine and another month in the Hamptons. The Grenning Gallery curated and hosted an exhibit of the group in Sag Harbor that November.

Butko's work can be found in the Vyshniy Volochek Museum, the Institute of Russian Realistic Art Museum as well as many private collections in Russia, China and across the U.S. Butko paints in Sag Harbor, Maine, Boston and New York, as well as Russia and Italy. His work can be found in the Grenning Gallery, Watson Gallery, Williams Fine Art and the McCarthy Gallery. He lives with his wife, painter Kelly Carmody, in Waltham Massachusetts, where they paint and teach in and around their studio. They often travel to Shelter Island, New York, where they stay and paint locally.

EXHIBITIONS

- 2016-21 **Grenning Gallery** Two-man and group shows, Sag Harbor, NY
- 2018 **Watson Gallery** *Solo Show*, Stonington, ME
William Fine Art Dealers Gallery, *Pop-Up*, Wenham, MA
Bryan Memorial Gallery *Winter Rendezvous*, Jeffersonville, VT
- 2017 **Grenning Gallery** *Gems*, Sag Harbor, NY
The Gallery at North Hill *Still Life: Natura Morta*, Needham, MA
Gallery B *Two Painters*, Castine, ME
- 2016 **Grenning Gallery** *Russian American Painting Alliance*, Sag Harbor, NY
- 2015 **People's Gallery of the Village of Solnechniy** *Solo Show*, Tver Region, Russia
- 2014 **Central House of Artists** *Russia - XII*, Moscow
- 2013 **Plyos State Historical-Architectural and Art Museum** *Russian-Italian Plein Air*, Plyos, Russia
- 2009 **Central House of Artists** *Russia - XI*, Moscow
- 2007 **House of Russian - Chinese Friendship** *Plein Air*, Harbin, China
- 2005 **Zamoskvorech'e Gallery**, Moscow
- 2004 **Central House of Artists** *Russia - X*, Moscow
- 2003 **Gallery of the Presnensky District** *Solo Show*, Moscow; **City Library**, Vishniy Volochek; **People's City Gallery**, Bologoye
- 2002 **McCarthy Gallery** *Solo Show*, Park City, Utah
- 2001 **Central House of Artists** *Exhibition of Young Painters*, Moscow-St. Petersburg
- 2000 **Zamoskvorechy Gallery** *Butko Family Exhibit*, Moscow
Central Art Gallery *All Russian Exhibit 'In the Name of God'*, Moscow-St. Petersburg
- 1999 **Central House of Artists** *Boldino Autumn*, Moscow
- 1998 **Zamoskvorechy Gallery** *Chulovich & Butko: Three Generations of Artists*, Moscow
Naro-Fominsk City Gallery *Chulovich & Butko: Three Generations of Artists*, Naro-Fominsk, Russia
- 1997 **Moscow Union of Artists** *New Members*, Moscow, 1994; **Central House of Art Workers** *Painting Students of the Moscow Art School*, Moscow

RESIDENCIES

- 2018 **Visions of Vermont**, *Winter Rendezvous*, Jeffersonville, VT
- 2017 **Gallery B**, *Artist in Residence*, Castine, ME
- 2016 **Grenning Gallery**, *Russian American Painting Alliance*, Stonington, ME and Sag Harbor, NY
- 2013 **Plyos State Historical-Architectural and Art Museum**, *Russian-Italian Plein Air*, Plyos, Russia
- 2007 **Ministry of Culture**, *Russian Chinese Plein Air*, Harbin, China

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Sag Harbor Express, Michelle Trauring, "Connecting En Plein Air", October 18, 2018

The Independent, East Hampton, NY, Nicole Teitler, "Art Show Celebrates Cultural Similarities", October 30, 2018

The Boston Voyager, Edward Clark, "Meeting Viktor Butko", December 7th, 2018

Bryan Memorial Gallery Blog, Mickey Myers, "The Russians Are Coming", March 13, 2018

Vermont Public Radio, Here and Now, Mickey Myers, "Painterly Détente", March 20, 2018

Stuck in Vermont!, Eva Sollberger, "Outdoor Painting in Jeffersonville", March 21, 2018

Fine Art Connoisseur, Andrew Webster, "A Russian Alliance Worth Your Attention", November 10, 2016

Waltham Studios Blog, Leo Mancini Hresko, "Russian Engineering", November 5, 2016

Hamptons Art Hub, Pat Rogers, "Russian and American Painters Connecting through Painting En Plein Air", November 26, 2016

Waltham Studio Blog, Leo Mancini Hresko, "Blue Hill/Deer Isle Peninsula October 2016", October 28, 2016

TEACHING / LECTURES

Waltham Studios, Painting Instructor and guest lecturer, 2018- Present

Melrose Art Association, Guest Lecturer, 2019

Gallery B, Guest Lecturer, 2017

EDUCATION

1997 Apprenticeship with Alexey Gritsay

1989-96 Moscow Academic Art Lyceum at the Russian Academy of Arts

1978-98 Studied with his Grandfather Victor Chulovich, and parents Nickolay Butko and Marina Chulovic



“The Scene at Murfs”
25 x 30 inches, Oil on Linen, 2019



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