

Leonid Ptitsyn



I was born in 1929, and knew by the age of 5 that I wanted to be a painter. In 1944, when I was 15 years old, I lost my arms in a landmine accident. I was afraid that I would never be able to continue my painting, but I never gave up, and fulfilled my dream. In 1951 I went to art school in St. Petersburg, and entered the prestigious Academy of Arts in 1956. I graduated at the age of 33, with honors.



My wife and I live in St. Petersburg, as does my son. I spend most of my time, though, in my dacha outside of the city. I prefer being in the country.



The subject matter of my work has always centered around the war and landscapes, during Soviet times and today. That has not changed. What has changed between then and now is the standard of living for artists. In Soviet times, there was a better and more secure life for painters. In the past, there were orders on a monthly basis from the government for paintings which would then be purchased. The government also provided for painters with the opportunity of going to the dacha for a few months to live and work, with food and board taken care of. Now we artists have hit rock bottom with poorer living standards and less security. We are forgotten.



This is a painting of my mother. The original is located in a collection in San Francisco.

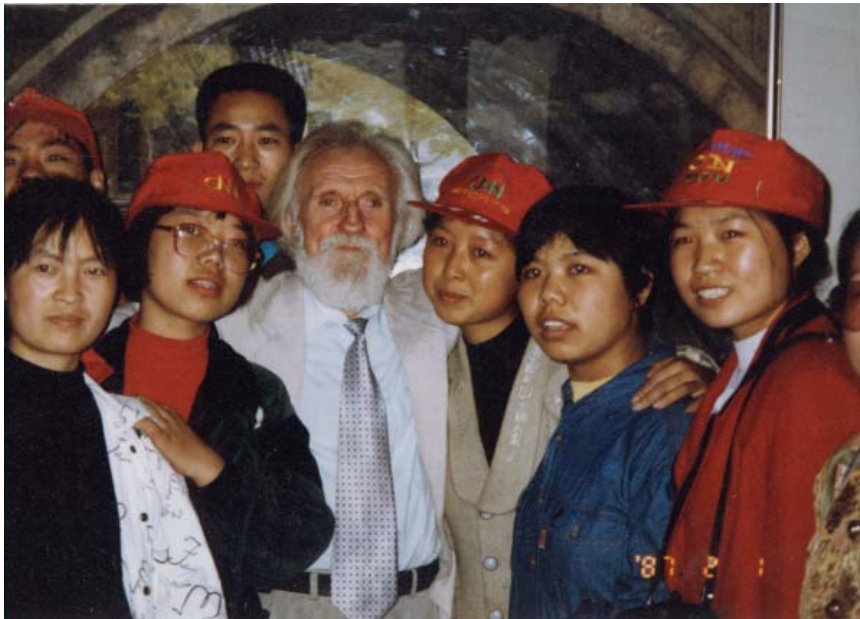


Painting of my father. The original is also located in a collection in San Francisco.



I have traveled with my art to many countries, including Spain, Israel, Poland, and here as shown in China.







“The Letter”. This painting portrays a daughter and grandfather receiving a letter from her father who is at the war front.



Self portrait







I enjoyed making my mask as part of the “My Life..My City...” Project.



Posing with my mask in October 2002

