Tchelitchew

Visitors to the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art will have a rare opportunity to see paintings and drawings by Pavel Tchelitchew (u.s., b. Russia 1898-1957) in an exhibition from January 19 - March 10. Most of the works, including Tchelitchew's famous *Hide-and-Seek* from New York's Museum of Modern Art, have seldom traveled from the East Coast. An opening reception will be held at the museum from 7 - 9 p.m. on Friday, January 18. OU's David Ross Boyd Professor of Art History Victor Koshkin-Youritzin is curator of the exhibition and has written an illustrated catalog, which will be available at the museum store.
Tchelitchew

(continued from cover)

During his childhood, Youritzin was drawn to Tchelitchew's *Hide-and-Seek*, a large canvas filled with a complex series of anthropomorphic images and natural elements which deal with the human condition. As an adult, Youritzin learned that he had a distant family relation to Tchelitchew; this knowledge deepened his interest in the painting and the artist which ultimately led to this exhibition.

"I have always loved Hide-and-Seek, even as a child, and for many years have thought about doing a Tchelitchew show," Youritzin explains. "I finally decided to contact the Museum of Modern Art in the summer of 1999 to ask if they would consider loaning Hide-and-Seek."

After he met in New York with Museum of Modern Art officials, the museum agreed to the loan – an extraordinary accomplishment for Youritzin and the University of Oklahoma due to the painting's significance and fragile condition.

"People will spend much time in front of this painting," says Youritzin. "They will be endlessly fascinated by the new images that emerge over time, and may revisit the painting frequently."

While *Hide-and-Seek* is the focal point, the exhibition will include 32 additional works that survey the artist's career and were selected based on their exceptional artistic quality. The majority of pieces in the show are from the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art, with the balance coming from private collectors and New York's Michael Rosenfeld Gallery. One painting, a recent gift from Dr. Mark Allen Everett, is from the PIMA permanent collection.

Tchelitchew was born into affluence and raised in an environment that valued education and art. He studied art as a university student in Moscow and in 1918, to avoid the revolution, moved to Kiev, where he continued his studies. In the 1920s, he lived in Berlin and Paris, supporting himself through work for the theatre and painting still-lifes, figures and portraits.

Tchelitchew was also one of the greatest stage designers of the 20th century. He worked on the productions of *Ode* (Paris, 1928) by Diaghilev's Ballets Russes, *L'Errant* (Paris, 1933) choreographed by Balanchine, *Nobilissima Visione* (London, 1938) choreographed by Massine, and others. His set designs were particularly known for innovative uses of new materials and dramatic lighting effects.

In 1934, Tchelitchew moved to the United States, where he produced a series of increasingly ambitious works, culminating in his masterpiece, *Hide-and-Seek*. The Museum of Modern Art purchased *Hide-and-Seek* in 1942, the same year it granted Tchelitchew one of the first solo exhibitions it had ever mounted. *Hide-and-Seek* soon became one of the most popular paintings in the museum.

Pavel Tchelitchew
(u.s., b. Russia, 1898-1957),
The Golden Leaf, 1945,
Gouache on paper, 25" x 19 1/2",
Collection of I. Hyde Crawford, New York, NY.
Tchelitchew

(continued)

The FJMA exhibition's catalog, with an extensive text by Youritzin, will include reproductions of all works from the show as well as other examples of Tchelitchew's art. Some of the images have never before been published.

The exhibition has been organized with the assistance of the Museum of Modern Art and other individuals and organizations, including the Michael Rosenfeld Gallery, New York; D.C. Moore Gallery, New York; the State Arts Council of Oklahoma; and the Norman Arts and Humanities Council.

On February 7, Youritzin will present a lecture that will analyze Tchelitchew and his work. The presentation will be held at 7 p.m. in Meacham Auditorium in Oklahoma Memorial Union. A reception will follow at FJMA. FJMA's Luncheon à l'Art program, benefiting the Norman Arts and Humanities Council, will feature a lecture by Youritzin followed by a gallery walk-through on Monday, March 4. On Thursday, March 7 at 7 p.m., Harold Stevenson, Oklahoma-born artist and friend of Tchelitchew, will present "Remembering Tchelitchew" at FJMA. Focus tours on the exhibition will be listed in the FJMA winter program brochure.

VisionMakers: Exhibition of Works From Oklahoma Artists at FJMA

Spotlighting the finest in three-dimensional art and high craft, the VisionMakers exhibition opens on January 18 at FJMA. Sponsored by the Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition (OVAC), VisionMakers is a biennial juried exhibition that includes works by Oklahoma artists. The exhibition will remain on display until March 10.

On February 2, Lane Coulter, juror for the exhibition, will present a gallery talk at 2 p.m. at the museum. He will discuss the works selected for the 2002 exhibition and the jurying process. In addition, Coulter will announce three award winners and elaborate on their selection.

Coulter, a renowned metalsmith, received his MFA from the University of Oklahoma. He has taught at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, NM and has authored several books about metal smithing and tinwork.

VisionMakers was started in 1989 by the Oklahoma Arts Council to showcase the best in high craft in Oklahoma. OVAC began overseeing the exhibition in 1991.

OVAC is a nonprofit organization that supports and promotes the visual arts through publications, educational programs, and annual exhibitions, and encourages professional excellence through grants, seminars, and a professional slide registry.

For more information about VisionMakers and OVAC, visit www.ovac-ok.org.