

The Russian Masters Series

The Parkville Frame Gallery is honored to offer **The Russian Masters Series**. This series is a small collection of reproductions of paintings created by some of the most well-known and well-respected Russian artists. These images can be purchased either already framed, or we can order these and many other images, in a variety of sizes, and frame them to your specifications. We encourage you to explore Russian art.



The Milkmaids (1962)

Nicolai Nikolaevich Baskakov

The Museum of Russian Art, Minneapolis, MN

Date painted: 1962

How painted: oil on canvas

Size: 27¼ x 47¼ inches

Where on display: The Museum of Russian Art, Minneapolis, MN

The Artist: **Nicolai Nikolaevich Baskakov** (1918-1993) was born in a village near Astrakhan City on the Volga River. In 1933-1939 Baskakov studied under the famous Russian art educator Pavel Alekseevich Vlasov in the Astrakhan Art School. In 1939 he was drafted into the Red Army and sent to serve in the Far East. In 1945 Baskakov enrolled at the Leningrad Institute of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture which was named after Russian artist Ilya Repin. Baskakov graduated in 1951. He was a permanent exhibitor at the Leningrad Art exhibition and was recognized as one of the leading masters of the time, creating battle and historical paintings, genre scenes, portraits, and landscapes. His paintings are owned by the State Russian Museum. They are in art museums and private collections in Russia, Japan, the United States, Germany, and England.

The Art: ***The Milkmaids*** While the painting conforms to the socialist realism principles, as it depicts ordinary working people, the context in which the characters are shown is unique and not typical of Soviet State Art. Baskakov, who also painted more heavy-handed political messages like portraits of Lenin, sometimes indulged in depicting working people in light hearted situations, like individuals sharing jokes or mocking each other.



Morning in a Pine Forest (1886)
Ivan Ivanovich Shishkin
Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow, Russia

Date painted: 1886

How originally painted: oil on canvas

Size: Large

Where on display: Tretyakov Gallery – Moscow, Russia

The Artist(s): Ivan Ivanovich Shishkin and Konstantin Savitsky

The Art: *Morning in a Pine Forest* is a popular painting by Russian artists Ivan Shishkin and Konstantin Savitsky. Savitsky painted the bears; however, the art collector Pavel Tretyakov effaced his signature, stating that: "from idea until performance, everything discloses the painting manner and creative method peculiar just to Shishkin", so the painting is now credited solely to Shishkin.

The *Morning in a Pine Forest* became very popular, being reproduced on various items, including the "Clubfooted Bear" chocolates made by the Krasny Oktyabr (Red October) confectionery manufacturer. According to one poll, the painting is the second most popular in Russia behind *Bogatyr*s by Viktor Vasnetsov. Shishkin's similar paintings are the *Forest in Spring* (1884) and *The Sestroretsk Forest* (1896). It is believed that Shishkin painted the pine trees near Narva-Jõesuu in Estonia, where he often liked to rest in summers.



Calm Seas (1884)
Ivan Aivazovsky

Date painted: 1884

How originally painted: Oil

Size: Data not available

Where on display: Unknown

The Artist: **Ivan Konstantinovich Aivazovsky** (1817--1900) was ethnically an Armenian; he was born in the city of Feodosiya, which was then a part of the Russian Empire. He showed extraordinary artistic potential from an early age. Aivazovsky is by far most well-known for painting magnificent seascapes, and is considered to be among the best in this category. Fully half of all his life works, which were numerous, depict ocean scenes with ships, magnificent sunsets, cloudscares, ships and waves. His talent earned him a huge amount of work from the Russian Navy. Aivazovsky's paintings are noted for their magnificent use of light against waves and sea foam (see *The Ninth Wave*), which still cause art critics to marvel at his keen eye, his skills, and his temporal insights. Aivazovsky was easily the most prolific European painter of high caliber in Europe. He was elected to no less than five prestigious Art Academies, including those in St. Petersburg, Rome, Florence and Amsterdam.

The Art: ***Calm Sea*** (1884)



Deprived of Paradise (1998)

Gely Mikhailovich Korzhev (1925–2012)

The Museum of Russian Art (TMORA), Minneapolis, MN

Date painted: 1998

How painted: oil on canvas

Size: 46-3/4 x 58-1/2 inches

Where on display: The Museum of Russian Art (TMORA), Minneapolis, MN

The Artist: **Gely Mikhailovich Korzhev** (1925-2012) was one of the most influential, innovative and vivid of the Socialist Realism artists in the 20th century. Korzhev suffered the death of both of his parents in 1986. The loss of his parents created a hiatus in his work for over a year that ultimately evolved into a series of paintings that deal with the broad subject of spiritual love.

The Art: In ***Deprived of Paradise*** Korzhev turned to subjects from the Old and New Testaments. For Korzhev, always the thinker, the main focus of this significant new development in his creative life was to capture the internal logic of the story, based on the moral and ethical views that determine human actions.

Most of the works in his “biblical series” are highly charged with the dramatic significance of events that have taken place, or are anticipated. *Deprived of Paradise* is one of the most emotionally powerful paintings of Korzhev’s biblical cycle. Korzhev brings the dramatic expulsion of Adam and Eve from paradise into a world of emotions and experiences more comprehensible to the contemporary viewer. The two characters are separated from the landscape in the background by a large distance; nothing links them to it. The composition of the painting echoes its title almost literally: paradise is lost, the well-being and happiness that it brought are gone. The future is full of uncertainty and unceasing trials of life.



Vechoriye (Evening) (1900)
Mykola Pymonenko
Rybinsk Art Museum-Preserve

Date painted: 1900

How painted: Probably oil on canvas

Size: unknown

Where on display: The Rybinsk State History, Architecture and Art Museum-Preserve.
Note: Rybinsk is the second largest city of Yaroslavl Oblast in Russia. Rybinsk is one of the oldest Slavic settlements on the Volga River.

The Artist: Mykola Korniyovych Pymonenko (Ukrainian, 1862-1912) was best known for his urban and rural genre scenes of Ukrainian working-class people. In 1897, he participated in decorating Saint Volodymyr's Cathedral. He was awarded the Order of Saint Anne for his work there. He became a full member of the Peredvizhniki Society (a group of Itinerant Art Exhibitors known as the "Wanderers") in 1899, and was named an "Academician" in 1904. He also exhibited widely; winning a gold medal at the Salon in Paris in 1909 for his painting *Gopak*. It currently hangs in the Louvre in Paris.

The Art: *Vechoriye* A rural scene that shows a girl bringing the geese (probably with her younger brother) in at the end of the day (***Vechoriye*** or ***Evening***). This is a typical example of Pymonenko's popular work.



Peasant with a Bridle (Portrait of Mina Moiseyev) (1883)
Ivan Nikolayevich Kramskoy (1837-1887)
National Museum, "Kyiv" Art Gallery, Kiev, Ukraine

Date painted: 1883

How originally painted: oil on canvas

Size: 125 x 93 cm

Where on display: National Museum, "Kyiv" Art Gallery, Kiev, Ukraine

The Artist: **Ivan Nikolayevich Kramskoy** (Russian, 1837-1887) is remembered as somewhat of a nonconformist in his time. He was the initiator and organizer of the "Peredvizhniki", the Society for Traveling Art Exhibitions. Its fourteen original members were known as "The Wanderers". Some of the best known artists from the 1800's (e.g., Ivan Shishkin, Ilya Repin, and Isaak Levitan) were members of the original Wanderers group. The Wanderers first exhibition was in 1871 in St. Petersburg, Russia. Other exhibitions followed and became very popular.

The Art: ***Peasant with a Bridle*** (Portrait of Mina Moiseyev) The Wanderers goal as art students was to portray Russia in a more realistic and less formal way than was the case at the time. This painting depicts a powerful figure with a tattered coat which falls in wide folds, and reliability strong hands, leaning on his staff. He shows us a somewhat crafty, good-natured, full of inner strength, serenity and wisdom glance from under shaggy eyebrows.