

From Russia with Love: An exclusive Q & A with Russian Artist Natalya Bronzova

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Noel Sales Barcelona (NSB): Why did you decide to stay here in Asia, particularly the Philippines?

NB: It's definitely more fun in the Philippines! I first came to the Philippines in 2011 and since then, I wrote three books about the country, one of them on the legendary Philippines First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, who became a great blessing for me; through her, I was quite privileged to discover the Philippines. That is why this country is very special to my soul.

NSB: Kindly share a little bit of your personal journey to the arts. What we mean is how Natalya Bronzova became Natalya Bronzova?

NB: I was born in Russia, where I studied Philology & history and obtained my Master's degree at the Moscow State University. For the past 20 years, I organized inaugurations of over 30 bronze monuments around the world as well as art symposiums of international artists in Canada, Turkey and Malaysia. I became Natalya Bronzova because I created my own path, one that none is able to repeat and I'm happy in my place. I feel like an international artist because my life was influenced by culture and traditions of Russia, Canada and the Philippines, countries where I have lived in different time of my life. Now I mainly reside in the Philippines but travel all around of South Asia.

NSB: Who are your influences in creating art and how far did these people influence you in creating your pieces?

NB: During my childhood I was fascinated by the paintings of a great Russian philosopher Nicolay Roerich who lived much of his life in the Himalayas. I find that he is the greatest painter of the 20th Century. He is my guru in paintings, because his art is very spiritual, based on deep knowledge of history as far back as the Bible times such as the Hyperborean, Arian and Vedic sacred knowledge. His art is not much promoted in the world today, but I must add that he is the one who wrote "the Peace pact" which we know now as UNESCO - the World Heritage Protection organization.

NSB: Tell us more about your experiences as an artist



NB: I wrote seven books, produced one documentary film on art and as a visual artist I was exhibited in a few cities of the world: Moscow, Montreal, New York, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Ipoh, Sungai Petany, Manaoag. My latest solo exhibition was in February 2017 at the famous Cultural Center of the Philippines. I was the first Russian visual artist to be exhibited there! This day I will never forget... Distinguished guests officially inaugurated the exhibition: Russian Ambassador Igor A. Khovaev, President of the CCP Dr. Raul Sunico, Ms. Jewel Lobaton Pimentel and Ms. Cory Quirino. I invited opera singers to perform during exhibition and even convinced great Pilipino pianist CCP President, Dr. Raul Sunico to graciously accept my request to play on the event. This was a wonderful gift from Raul for my guests and me. I love the Philippines because even miracles are possible here! My next my exhibition will be at the Rockwell club in June. Outstanding Chef Jessie will host my exhibition at her club! I'm very grateful to know this wonderful lady. Please come see my art works there in June 1-30.

NSB: Aesthetically and thematically, what are the other things that you want to explore in creating works of art?

NB: In my opinion, the best paintings are those, which you are never tired to look at; one must have the urge to want to live in the reality on the canvas. Many times I heard people saying that they wanted to go inside my canvases, to experience that dream reality which I create... This is the highest compliment for me as an artist. My paintings are very much influenced by history, legends and my own dreams, based on history knowledge. I was able to create my own style, which is not easy in our modern world when every possible style and media has been expressed! I did nothing on purpose to be different then other artists. It happened naturally because I simply splash my feelings on canvas.

NSB: Would you share to us your philosophy or core beliefs about creating works of art, on about sharing art to the world, and how to be a true artist?

NB: The purpose of any painting is to give emotions to an audience and preferably, good ones, so people feel inspired and recharged with good vibrations after they visit an art place. From the many comments on my latest exhibition at the CCP, I feel that I have reached that goal! The CCP exhibition was successful not only because I was presented by the Russian embassy and unveiled by the Ambassador Igor Khovaev, but because people get a positive energy flow from my work! I was really happy and fulfilled that day.

In my life, I visited the biggest and most known Museums, at least a few times each. Classical artists who are exposed in these great institutions reveal the perfection of humans and let their emotions show on their canvases; one feels inspired looking at them! Unfortunately today, we miss these qualities in most of modern art... Since S. Dali broke the rules in art, many others want just to break it more and more. Now art has become a protest against society, only few artists create beautiful and positive pieces. I'd like to remind other artists that we should educate the human soul to be better and should give inspiration to others! It is a great responsibility for each of us - painters, writers, sculptors and all other creators. That is how I see the artist's role in our modern world.

NSB: Are you planning to write books about Philippine art also?

NB: Yes, I'd like it very much. That is why now I have many Filipino artists friends. To write a book is a long process and you have to know the subject, which you are writing on. Now I study Filipino art and of course enjoy the friendship.

Who is ——— Natalya

International artist Natalya Bronzova was born in Russia, where she studied the Philology & History and obtained her Master's degree at the Russian State University. Born and educated Russian, she moved to Canada after University where she developed her creativity, became a painter and wrote several books on art and history. Natalya also produced and directed a full feature video documentary about a Russian artist, selected for showing at the Moscow Film Festival. She even organized the inauguration of over 30 bronze monuments around the world, as well as symposiums of international artists in Canada, Turkey and Malaysia. Presently Natalya resides in Southeast Asia, where she continues her career in the art and cultural projects mainly in the Philippines and Malaysia. She has a particular interest in the Philippines, having written three books about that country, and more specifically a book about the legendary First Lady, Imelda Marcos, who became like a Godmother to Natalya.

Natalya was the first Russian visual artist who had had an exhibit in the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP)! The Russian Embassy in Manila is the one who presented her exhibition, "From Russian soul with Love" in the main lobby of the CCP, on February 10th 2017. Another important patron of the event was Ms. Jewel Lobaton Pimentel, wife of the Philippines Senate President. Russian Ambassador Igor A. Khovaev, President of the CCP Dr. Raul Sunico, Ms. Jewel Lobaton Pimentel and Ms. Cory Quirino were her distinguished guests and the ones who inaugurated the exhibition.

The exhibition proceeded with a Russian flavor; it started with the singing of the national anthems of the Philippines and of the Russian Federation. Posters, cocktail tables, flowers and even the inauguration ribbon were all in Russian colors: white, blue and red. Guests were treated to Russian cuisine specialties: Olivier salad, marinated mushrooms and cabbage.

This was a unique and very high-class evening tinted with a miraculous atmosphere opening all possibilities akin to the fairytale stories which Natalya splashes onto her canvases! Reality mixes with dreams and legends - this is the world Natalya creates in her paintings! One simply wishes to dive into the canvas and be in her dream world of vivid colors and divine energy... All guests agreed that Natalya's paintings made them more happy and put peace in their mind; this recognition is the greatest possible success for any artist!