

Russian artists' works on display

By **BOB KOSLOW**

Staff Writer

bob.koslow@news-jrnl.com

DEBARY — Fearing censure from the Communist government, Russian artist Marina Marza often showed her paintings at unofficial exhibits in private, cramped apartments.

That was before the fall of the stoic Communists. Her works of carnival-like fantasy now hang in private and public galleries in Russia and around the world.

Marza and Russian graphic artist Natasha Zarovnaya have brought their works to Southwest Volusia for a 10-day exhibit at the DeBary Golf and Country Club. The exhibit is the second in a series of international art shows sponsored by the DeBary Art League.

The club, league and city will open the exhibit with a wine-and-cheese reception from 6 to 8 p.m. today at the club. The reception and exhibit, which runs through June 24, are open to the public.

Marza is familiar with Volusia County. She and her American husband, businessman John King, have a condominium in Ormond-by-the-Sea, in addition to their apartment in Moscow.

The two Russian artists closed an exhibit last weekend at The Casements Cultural Center Gallery in Ormond Beach. The artists grew up in opposite sides of Communist Russia and have different painting styles, but both are considered nontraditional in Russia.

Marza grew up in Moscow and attended a state-sponsored art institute that she said tried to program her artistic style. After finishing, she developed her own style during the 1970s and '80s, a period that saw a growth in Russian art away from the government-approved styles.

Her paintings in oils and acrylics depict carnival aesthetics and worlds of escape and distractions using actors, clowns, musicians and angels, Russian art critic Vitaly Patsiukov wrote.

The characters from theater mythology express a variety of powerful emotions from joking and gaiety to lament and suffering, Patsiukov wrote.

Marza has been exhibiting her works internationally since the late 1980s, including galleries in Germany, Japan and the United States. Her works hang in private collections in Europe, Japan, Mexico, Venezuela and the United States — in Seattle and Los Angeles.



Provided by DeBary Art League

This oil painting by Russian artist Marina Marza is titled 'Walk.' It is one of her works that will be on a 10-day display in the DeBary Golf and Country Club starting today.

Once limited to private shows, now Marza's works hang in the State Russian Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Zarovnaya was born and raised in Siberia. She too attended a government art institute. But, as it was in eastern Russia, the government control on the students and their Oriental instructor was less enforced.

Zarovnaya's compositions are in graphics, etchings, lithographs, monotypes and collages. She has participated in international exhibits since 1980 throughout Europe and in Brazil.

Twice she has won awards at the International Print Biennale, both times on her home turf in Kaliningrad, Russia. She is the manager of etching at Senezh, the Russian Graphics Institute in Moscow.

Zarovnaya has had shows at Teller Gallery in New York, the International Print Museum in Portland and at Boise State University in Idaho. Her works are part of the permanent collections at Rutgers University in New Jersey, the Museum of Modern Art in Brazil, Galleri Wosps in Scotland, Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts in Moscow and the Museum of Modern Art in Kaliningrad.