

Sergo Kobuladze

Sergo Kobuladze, People's painter of the Georgian SSR, Winner of the State Prize, Corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Arts, is one of the most prominent artists of Soviet Georgia.

S. Kobuladze was born in 1909. He got his education in the Tbilisi Academy of Arts where he studied from 1925 till 1930. His teachers were Gigo Gabashvili, E.E. Lansere, J.A. Charlemagne, well known artists who taught him to understand all the subtleties of Nature and developed in his heart the thirst for hard unwavering labor. During the studies in the Academy S. Kobuladze showed a great interest towards the Italian Renaissance and to the monuments of ancient Georgian Art, and all this influenced greatly the development of the artist's outlook. Since the Thirties S.Kobuladze has been systematically taking part in the exhibitions in Tbilisi, Moscow and Soviet cities. In 1956 his works were exhibited in Venice, while in 1957 in London, at International exhibitions.

In 1938 S. Kobuladze began to teach in the Tbilisi Academy of Arts. In the period of 1952-1959 he was the rector of the Art Academy, while since 1941 he has been working as head of the drawing department. The well-pronounced personality of the author can be seen in his works in drawing, painting, and scene-painting.

Great importance in S. Kobuladze's work is attached to book illustrations. In 1934-1935 he made four drawings for the Georgian edition of Shakespeare's tragedies, and after that in 1935-1937 he made a series of illustrations for Rustaveli's "The Knight in the Painter's Skin" and thus won an important position among the masters of drawing in the Soviet Union. He has also created illustration to the epic poem "The Lay of Igor' Host" (1939-1940), drawings for Shakespeare's "King Lear", for Sh. Dadiani's novel "Juri Bogolubski" (1951), for the collection of Georgian folk tales (1954), etc.

The choice of the works of literature shows the specific taste of the artist wishing to create heroic images. The principal aim of the artist is to reveal the essence of the work of literature, to create the heroes' characters, to show realistically the time and place of the action described. The series of illustrations by their nature are close to the machine drawing but of representation of dramatic action and revealing of images make them organically whole.

The artist works in machine drawing and paintings as well. His portraits and landscapes are thoroughly composed and generalized. S. Kobuladze's drawings are always distinct, firm, very exact and carefully worked out.

Since 1932 S. Kobuladze has been working as theatrical painter. His talent of a painter and monumentalist becomes apparent in the sketches of dresses and scenes which he made for the Tbilisi Marjanishvili and Rustaveli theatres, the Academic theatre of opera and ballet, for the Bolshoi theatre in Moscow. Being deeply thoughtful in creating specific styles of various historical periods and careful in preparing for any work as well as being aware of the specific features of the theatre, the artist is able to create the scene for any play according to its character and the producer's idea.

The specific nature of his work is based on high demands and strict discipline in work.

Sergo Kobuladze's contribution to the development of the Soviet Georgian Art is great both as of an artist and as of a teacher educating new generations of masters.

Mary Karbelashvili

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