

The present book “Unknown Sergo Kobuladze” is the result of the project carried out in 2015 by the researchers of the George Chubinashvili National Research Centre for Georgian Art History and Heritage Preservation.

The original project is aimed at inventorying the cultural heritage preserved in the workshop of Georgian People’s artist Sergo Kobuladze.

The initiative came from Chubinashvili Centre that was supported by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia. The treatment and processing of the discovered materials was planned immediately, alongside research and presentation to the general public by way of this book.

In April 2015, a group of researchers commenced working. The leader of the project was Dr. Mariam Gachechiladze, art historian; the members of the project are art historians Drs.: Tamar Belashvili and Sopio Chitorelidze; intern Nodar Aronishidze and the granddaughter of the artist Elisabed Kobuladze.

It is worth noting that the primary concept of the project was changed in the course of 2015. The Department of Graphics of the Tbilisi Academy of Arts was handed down the etching machine of the artist. After repair works, as an award, the promising students will be able to reprint ten works only out of the machine. The imprint detail should be installed for the machine, which will trace the watermark with the following inscription on it: “Imprinted on the Sergo Kobuladze machine”. Hereby, each example will gain

the original character that represents the best encouragement for young, beginning artists.

The archive of the artist was reassigned to the George Chubinashvili National Research Centre for Georgian Art History and Heritage Preservation as a result of its request. The workshop of the artist remains intact and hopefully to be awarded the status of a monument. Thus, the future generation, local or foreign experts including people concerned, will be able to learn and share experiences of the environment where the artist had created his masterpieces; in which, the soul of the artist has been preserved in his trinkets placed peculiarly or in the uncompleted sketch for the front curtain of the Opera put on the easel.

The great cultural heritage has been discovered in the workshop from the very beginning of the project. Determination of the intangible value of it is impossible. Even now, the material, which is to be presented to the public as Book I “Unknown Sergo Kobuladze”, is a small part from the archive documentation left by the artist. The documentation demands farther examination and publication.

Various documents have been preserved in the artist’s archive: personal and official letters of the artist and his family, correspondence reflecting dealing with various problems and questions; documentation of Tbilisi Academy of Arts, reports of his own and other artists’ research texts (about golden section, the murals of Ateni Sion and architecture of the Holy Cross in Mtskheta), texts and sketches for drawings, drawings, photos, negatives, satirical cartoons, ex libris, different designs for cigarette boxes, portraits of Soviet leaders.

All above-mentioned demands continued and long-term processing that will contribute to enrichment of Georgian culture.

Notwithstanding the fact, that Sergo Kobuladze does not belong to those artists whose work is not explored, the hidden treasures found in his workshop convey his personality as a son and as a parent, as well as a scholar, an artist and a teacher in general. His place and role in the history of Georgian fine art is particularly distinguished. However, the well-known artist is opening up to us as unknown. Hence, our goal is to present him to our society by way of a new viewpoint.

The book does not aim at defining the scholar research. The materials assembled here are intended for further study. The focal point is revealing Sergo Kobuladze as an artist, a person or a scholar to distinguish his input in the history of Georgian culture.

To single out the peculiarities of artist’s personality we quote various people close to him. The significant facts are recounted from the life and art of the artist since his childhood until now.

The references to Sergo Kobuladze are also completely listed (broadcast media, catalogues, books), the majority of which were collected by the artist himself and preserved in his archive.

What we know about Sergo Kobuladze is a big part of his biography, which is repeated in this book as well, but it is supplemented with newly researched and treated documents as much as possible.

Surviving material is a great contribution to illustration of the artist's working process. The majority of the sketches make possible for us to follow his creative mainstream. We can see how he attains the compositional perfection by means of frame sequence. Moreover, demonstrates how he develops the final shape of a figure to the subtle movement or to achievement of suitable emotional experience. Initially, he constructs the bony frame, builds it up with muscles and eventually, the figure comes through. As a result, he "gives birth" to the characters. The above indication is supplemented by the actions inserted in the interiors or landscapes constructed by the precise scheme. The examination does not make schematic or "dry" impression. Accordingly, the exquisite, balanced and restrained work of art is presented before the spectators who are not able to hide emotions against the perfection and mastery of the various compositions.

Multifigured compositions, the sketches for book illustrations, sceneries or costumes created throughout many years, are published in the book for the first time. Furthermore, it presents various sketches and polygraph imprints unknown or forgotten by the society. For instance, sketches for Gori station and festive decoration of the bridge. Sketches of sportswear for the Youth Olympic Games that took place in Moscow, compositions of various kinds of diplomas, diminutive ceramic medallions, posters...

Finding success at Venice Biennale held in 1956 is crucial for the innovative part of Sergo's life. In this book we present the overlooked sketches drawn in the course of the trip and later, easel paintings of Italy. Photos taken by the artist throughout this journey are attractive by his individual view of Italian towns – Rome, Venice, Florence and Milan. For the present we are able to publish only few photos but hereafter it is to be wished that these materials are to be published in the form of a photo album.

It is widely accepted that the front curtain made by Sergo Kobuladze for the Georgian National Opera and Ballet Theatre of Tbilisi named after Zakaria Paliashvili, takes an important place among the artistic values of the artist (1959-1961). A history of making and brief existence of the curtain is described in the present book – from its creation to its destruction as a consequence of fire on May 9, 1973 at the Georgian National Opera and Ballet Theatre.

Pedagogical activity of Sergo Kobuladze is singled out. He begins working in Tbilisi State Academy of Arts in 1938 while in 1943 he sets up the department of drawing and becomes the head of it. His big role as a tutor of many generations is reflected by recollections of his former students who now are the leading artists of Georgia. The fragments of the interviews inserted in the text belong to the following artists: Levan Tsutskiridze, Radish Tordia, Roman Tsukhishvili and architect Nukri Alkhazashvili.

Several considerable graphic or painting works, as well as etchings drawn in 1960-1970s have to be mentioned. Sergo Kobuladze's scientific work represents a big deal in the above mentioned period of time. He draws patterns and figures, the compositions of nude models by pencil for scientific and educational work. He is keen on studying proportional construction of a human head of archaic and classical antique periods. He is engaged in revealing the golden section of the figure of Ateni Archangel as well as in the proportions of the Holy church of Mtskheta. He makes great number of sketches, measurement drawings and fixes the minor details with extreme accuracy. He writes reports, researches and a thick book on the golden section.

In 1970 the principal care of Sergo Kobuladze is for the establishing the Monuments Recording Laboratory. Great deal of documentation, corresponding to the various government departments and weighty arguments have been preserved in his archive confirming the necessity of the late-model technical equipment for the laboratory and for the country. Thus, the photos of high quality taken in the laboratory would be acceptable for any polygraph printing around the world.

Throughout the following years, to the end of his life, the artist constantly continuous his creative work in the field of scientific researches and struggles to improve the laboratory.

We believe, the book "Unknown Sergo Kobuladze" will contribute a great deal to the further research of the Georgian Art History.

LIST OF GENERAL EXHIBITION

1928

Exhibition of the artists – Luka Khitarishvili, Sergo Kobuladze, Korneli Sanadze, Valerian Topuridze

Tbilisi, Georgia

1934

Exhibition of the theatrical models of Azerbaijanian, Armenian and Georgian artists associated with the Transcaucasia Olympiad of Art

Tbilisi, Georgia. Foyer of Georgian National Opera and Ballet Theatre.

Exhibition of Georgian Artist

Tbilisi, Georgia

1937

Exhibition “Shota Rustaveli and his Epoch”

Tbilisi, Georgia. Museum of Georgian Art

Decade exhibition of Georgian Art

Moscow, Russia

1938

Exhibition “Epoch of Rustaveli”

Leningrad, Russia. The State Hermitage

1939

Exhibition of Georgian Artists

Moscow, Russia

1940

Exhibition “Soviet Artists throughout Twenty Years”

Moscow, Russia

Exhibition “The Communist Party of All Russia”

Moscow, Russia

1943

Exhibition dedicated to WWII

Tbilisi, Georgia

1946

Exhibition of Georgian Fine Art dedicated to the 25th anniversary of Soviet Georgia

Tbilisi, Georgia. Tbilisi State Gallery

1947

Exhibition of Georgian Fine Art dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Great October Socialist

Tbilisi, Georgia. Tbilisi State Gallery

1948

Spring exhibition of Georgian artists

Tbilisi, Georgia. Tbilisi State Gallery

1949

Exhibition of Georgian Fine Art dedicated to the 70th anniversary of Stalin

Tbilisi, Georgia. Tbilisi State Gallery

Exhibition of decorative art of theatre

Tbilisi, Georgia, art-house of artists

Exhibition of Georgian Artists

Tbilisi, Georgia

1950

“Soviet Graphics” – mobile exhibition

Romania, Finland (Since 1950, first in Bucharest then in Helsinki)

Czechia, Hungary (April 28-May 29; first in Prague, then in Budapest)

Exhibition of Artists’ Union of Georgian SR

Tbilisi, Georgia

1952

Exhibition of Soviet Fine Art

India – Deli, Calkutta, Bombay

1954

Exhibition of Georgian Artists

Tbilisi, Georgia

1956

Venice – 28rd International Exhibition of Art in Italy – 28rd Biennale

Venice, Italy

1957

Jubilee exhibition dedicated to the 40th anniversary of Soviet Union

Tbilisi, Georgia. Tbilisi State Gallery

Exhibition of Soviet Artists in Graphic Art in Great Britain, London. National Gallery

Union Republic exhibition dedicated to the 40th anniversary of Soviet Union

Moscow, Russia. Central exhibition hall of the Academy of Arts of USSR

1958

Mobile exhibition from the storage of Georgian State Gallery

Zugdidi, Georgia. Museum of Local Lore

Decade exhibition of Georgian Art

Moscow, Russia

Exhibition of Georgian Fine Art

Moscow, Russia. USSR Academy of Arts

Exhibition of fine art of Socialist countries

Moscow, Russia. Central exhibition hall (Arena)

1959

Exhibition “Our Contemporary”

Moscow; USSR Union of Artists

Exhibition – “Georgian Fine Art”. Days of Georgian Culture in Poland.

Warsaw; Poland

1963

Exhibition “Masters of Book Illustrations”

Moscow. USSR Academy of Fine Arts

Exhibition dedicated to the Union Republic Art Raffle

Moscow, Russia

1971

Exhibition of Georgian, Azerbaijanian and Armenian artists (dedicated to the 50th anniversary of USSR)

Moscow, Russia

1972

Exhibition of Georgian artists, the members of USSR Academy of Arts (S. Kobuladze, K. Merabishvili, U. Japaridze, V. Topuridze)

Kirov, Russia. The exhibition hall of the Art Museum

1973

Exhibition of artists, the members of USSR Academy of Arts

Moscow; Russia. Central exhibition hall; Academy of Arts

1977

Exhibition “Soviet portrait”

Moscow, Russia

1979

Solo “Exhibition of Sergo Kobuladze”

Tbilisi, Georgia. Shalva Amiranashvili Museum of Art

Exhibition of works of art in Kutaisi

Kutaisi, Georgia

The second all-republic exhibition of Georgian medal

Tbilisi, Georgia, House of Artists

1984

Exhibition of the art works of Sergo Kobuladze, dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the artist

Tbilisi, Georgia. House of Artists

Exhibition s. Kobuladze and D. Eristavi

Tbilisi, Georgia

1986

Exhibition “Orietal Art in Action for Peace and Humanism”

Moscow, Russia. The State Oriental Museum

1987

Georgian SR Fine Art

Kaluga, Russia

1994

Exhibition “Late works of the artist Sergo Kobuladze”, dedicated to the 85th anniversary of the artist Tbilisi, Georgia. WFP Caucasus Regional Office

1996

“Exhibition of the art works of Sergo Kobuladze”

Tbilisi, Georgia. Gallery of Contemporary Art

1998

Exhibition “Greece in the contemporary Georgian art”

Tbilisi, Georgia. Dimitri Shevardnadze National Picture Gallery

2009

Sergo Kobuladze’s solo exhibition, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the artist

Tbilisi, Georgia. “Chardin” Gallery

Sergo Kobuladze’s anniversary exhibition

Tbilisi, Georgia. The workshop of the artist

Exhibition of the art works of Sergo Kobuladze

Tbilisi, Georgia. “Tbilisi Marriott”

2010

“The Twentieth Century Georgian Painting from the Private Collections and Contemporary Artists”

Tbilisi, Georgia. “Baia” Gallery

Exhibition “Where Tradition and the Innovation Meet”

Tsinandali, Georgia. Alexander Chavchavadze House Museum in Tsinandali

2011

“Masterpieces of Georgian Fine Art – the First Half of the Twentieth Century”

Tbilisi, Georgia. Dimitri Shevardnadze National Picture Gallery

2012

Exhibition “Heritage and Modernity”

Tbilisi, Georgia. Shalva Amiranashvili Museum of Art

2013

Exhibition “Twentieth Century Georgian Painting” from Givi Parastashvili’s private collection

Tbilisi, Georgia. “Oftalmij Art Gallery”

2015

Solo exhibition “Unknown Sergo Kobuladze”

Tbilisi, Georgia. Gallery “Ars Georgica” of the George Chubinashvili National Research Centre for Georgian Art History and Heritage Preservation

2016

Exhibition “Graphics of Sergo Kobuladze”

Tbilisi, Georgia. “Chardin” Gallery

Exhibition “Shakespeare on Georgian Stage”

Tbilisi, Georgia. “Art Palace of Georgia”

Exhibition “Rarity”

Tbilisi, Georgia. “Baia” Gallery