

Nikolay Shin



Hymn to the Sun, 1997
oil on canvas
80 x 60 cm



Paternal's House 58 (article Enemy of the People), 1986
oil on canvas
100 x 100 cm



Untitled #2, 1997
oil on canvas
90 x 65 cm



Seoul Acrobats, 1997
oil on canvas
80 x 60 cm



Masks, 1997
oil on canvas
70 x 90 cm



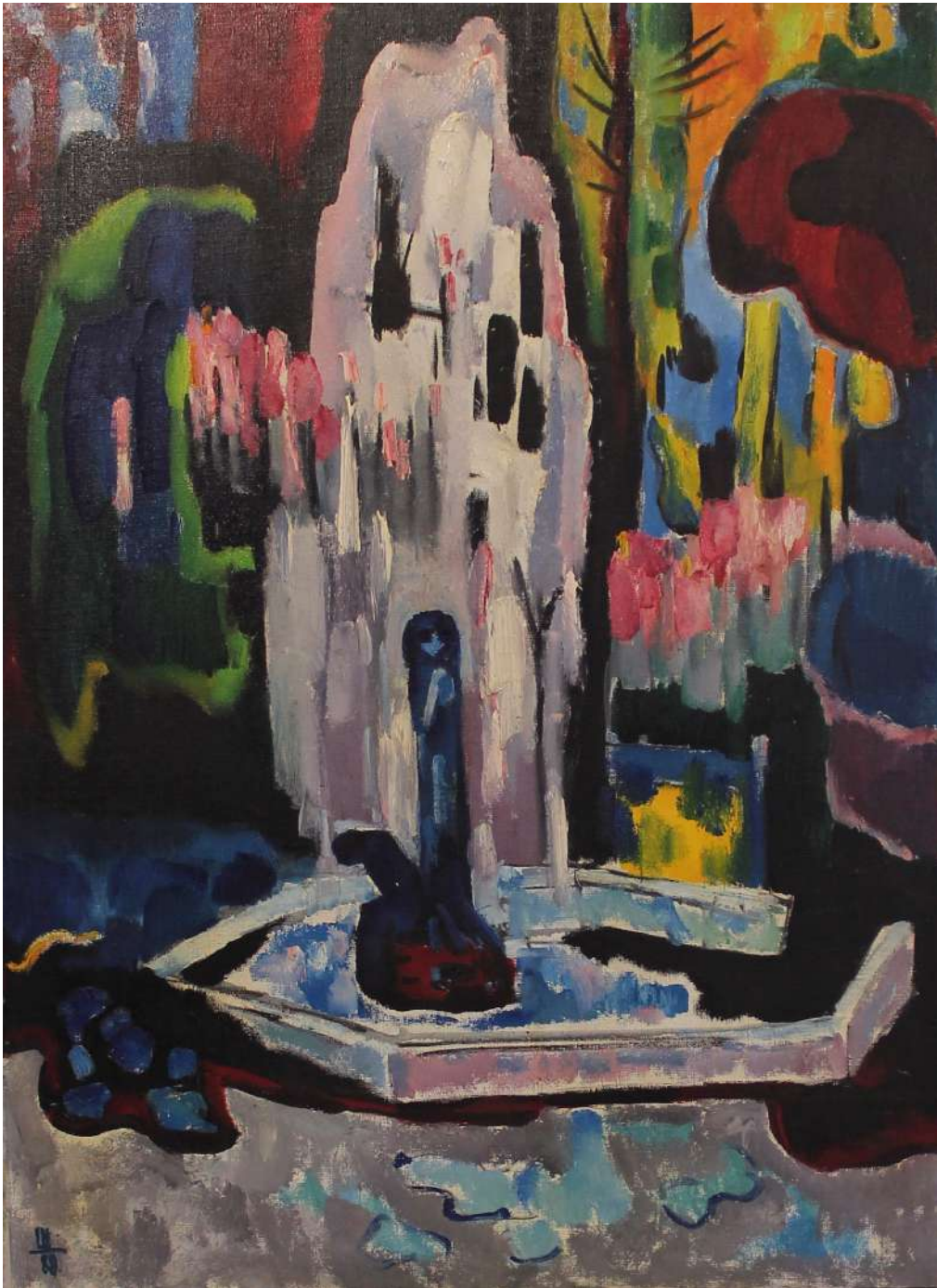
Winter, 1988
oil on canvas
100 x 50 cm



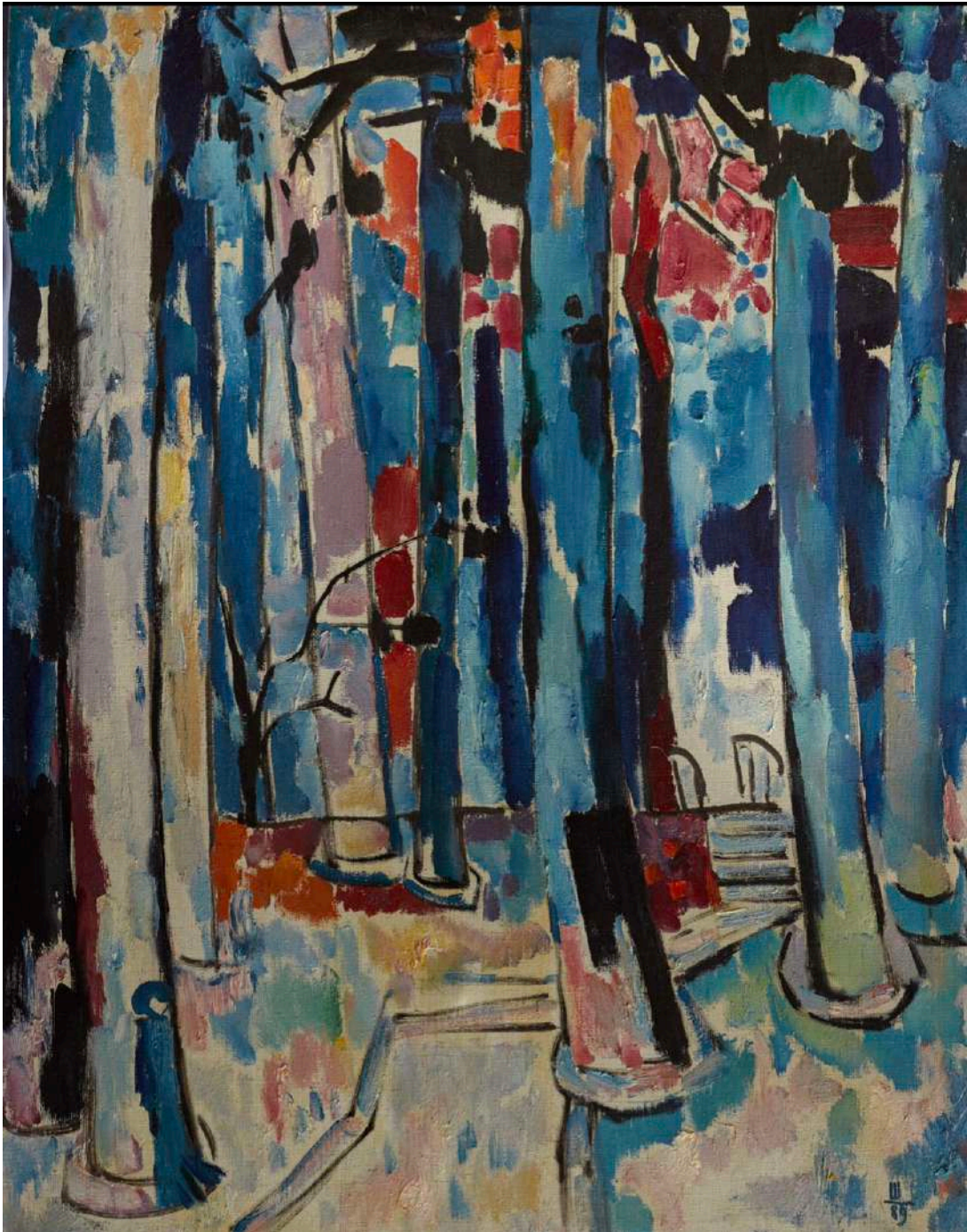
Autumn, 1988
oil on canvas
100 x 50 cm



Summer, 1988
oil on canvas
100 x 50 cm



Fountain of the Farewell, 1988
oil on canvas
95 x 70 cm



Blue Temple, 1988
oil on canvas
90 x 70 cm

About the Artist

Nikolai Shin born in 1928 in Dalnegorsk, Primorsky Krai, of the former Soviet Union. He passed away on August 18, 2006, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. He was an Uzbek painter of Korean descent. His paintings mix elements of cubism and surrealism. Most of them are invariably focused on the painful history of ethnic Koreans in the erstwhile Soviet Union, with heavy colours, sometimes symbolic, sometimes dramatic panorama. His inclination for cubism and the horrors of displacement which he depicted, made Korean newspapers refer to him as the "Picasso of Asia". In 1949, Shin graduated from Tashkent's Benkov Art School and began his career in painting, first receiving acclaim for his work in 1957, when he won the grand prize at the International Youth Festival in Moscow and the second prize in the Republican Festival of Young Artists of Uzbekistan. In 1960, he graduated from Atropsky Art College, also in Tashkent. After graduation, he began work on his painting "Requiem", which would take him until 1982 to complete. "Requiem" is painted on a canvas three meters tall and forty-four meters wide, in primary colours.

Shin began to become well known in the West with his solo exhibition in Moscow in 1990, and another in Tashkent in 1991. Eventually, his art attracted the attention of the Central Asian American Enterprise Fund, who offered him financial support, enabling him to hold more exhibitions. His work was also recognised by the Korean government in 1997, when he was awarded with the Order of Culture Merit. In 2001, Shin's life story was made into a documentary film, "Sky-Blue Hometown", directed by Kim So-young. Kim stated that she was inspired to tell Shin's story after seeing "Requiem" displayed at the National Museum of Contemporary Art and reading articles in the domestic press about Koreans in Uzbekistan. It won the grand prize at the Seoul International Documentary and Film Festival and was honoured as the best Korean documentary at the Pusan International Film Festival. "Sky-Blue Hometown" would go on to be invited to several international film festivals in 2001, including the Asian American International Film Festival in New York, the Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival in Japan, the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam and the International Festival of Audio-visual Programs in Paris. In November of the following year, the film won the Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema prize at the Taiwan International Documentary Festival. It showed the tremendous recognition Shin had begun to win.

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