



ARTIST PROFILE

# ALEXANDER ORLOV

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Alexander Orlov

Winter

Oil, 30" x 40"

by Elaine Adams

ALEXANDER ORLOV was born in June of 1959 in Danilov, Russia. Alexander, who prefers being known by his familiar name "Sasha," was raised through the Cold War era and into the thawing out period of Perestroika (*Rebuilding*.) Sasha's patriotic up-bringing included his cardiologist mother and his military father who is now a retired Soviet Army Colonel and World War II veteran. As a youth, Sasha's interests were devoted to world history, the military, and art.

At age seventeen, Sasha was

accepted into the Soviet Foreign Language Institute, a military academy devoted to training officers for foreign service, military intelligence and espionage. At the institute, as part of his military training, Sasha studied Chinese as his primary foreign language, and English as his secondary. Yet, despite the military demands, Sasha still made time to sketch and paint whenever possible. It was his sketching and painting that kept him company during his long and lonely hours spent monitoring American military traffic. One unforgettable event in Sasha's

memory is that during one of his nightly radio intercept duties, Sasha witnessed the tragic destruction of the Korean Airlines Flight #007. He describes the catastrophe as the "knee jerk reaction of an overly bureaucratized air defense system."

Inspired by the literary works of Sakharov and Solzhenitzyn, Sasha began to question the communist system. He felt he had a strong interest in art which must be pursued. In 1986, Sasha was given permission to apply for night courses at the prestigious Surikov Art Institute (founded by Russian master, Vasily Surikov (1848-1916.)

After working for several years as an intelligence officer by day and studying art by night, Sasha managed to graduate from the Surikov. In 1990, realizing that he could no longer go through the motions of the Soviet political ideologies, he resigned his commission as an Army Captain, and pursued his future in art.

In 1990, while working as an interpreter for a group of tourists visiting Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Sasha met David and Arlene Ray, noted Southern California art collectors. After viewing some of Sasha's works and looking at his portfolio, the Ray's encouraged Sasha to visit California where they felt there would be a promising future for him as an artist. In 1991, Sasha moved to California and currently resides in Beverly Hills.

Sasha's paintings are now included in many fine collections. His traditional academic training is apparent in his tech-



ORLOV *Continued*

nical strength, but the success in his work comes from more than his accurate sense of detail, it comes from his keen sense of observation and from his heart. This combination creates in his work a strong emotional impact.

Since Sasha has moved to Los Angeles, he has become acquainted with a growing group of young traditional painters. In 1993, Sasha joined the traditional art organization, the California Art Club which is the oldest art club in the western

United States, founded in 1909. Alexander Orlov entered his first California Art Club juried competition in July 1994 known as *The Gold Medal Exhibition*, where he was awarded Best of Show for his brilliant oil painting depicting the quiet solitude of a Russian forest during the height of winter. The painting measures 30" x 40", and is simply entitled, *Winter*.

When asked what the future holds for Sasha, he replies, "My Russian-bred superstitions pre-

vent me from letting my plans be known - for fear of them not coming true."

Alexander Orlov's works can be seen at the Morseburg Galleries in Los Angeles. 🐾

"Artist Profile" is a new regular feature in the C.A.C. Newsletter. The idea is to bring to our readers insightful information and awareness of our Artist Members.