

VINTAGE 1939 WORLD'S FAIR

PORTFOLIOS FROM THE SOVIET UNION PAVILION

MAY 5TH Through May 26th – 2006
Exhibit opens Friday, April 5th – 6 PM to 9 PM

This collection consists of four original hardbound portfolios, each approximately 14" high by 11" wide, from the 1939 World's Fair held in New York City. The portfolios were sold at the Soviet Union (Russian) pavilion. Each portfolio is complete and contains all of the original prints in the set.

BOOK #1 From the State Museum in Leningrad, this portfolio contains 20 reproductions of original paintings, all by Russian artists. In 1939 all of the original oil paintings, from which these were replicated, hung in the Russian State Museum.

The majority of the art in this museum was acquired, according to the description, "after the Great October Socialist Revolution of 1917" from former Imperial Palaces and country houses as well as from the mansions of the former court nobles.

Book #2 is a collection of copies of 32 Russian Masters, all post Revolution. Described as "New Art" (Soviet Art) the paintings are described as "truthful portrayal of life in the Land of the Soviets, devoted to the new Socialist man, his life, struggle and labor, his ideals, emotions and dreams."

Book #3 contains 20 prints from the collection of art of the Hermitage State Museum in Leningrad. Only after the Great Socialist Revolution in November 1917 was the Hermitage transformed into a museum "belonging to the whole people."

Book #4 has 24 prints from the Tretyakov State Gallery in Moscow. It started out as a private collection in the 1850's, and in 1892 the Gallery was presented to the City of Moscow. Following the Great Socialist Revolution, in 1918 Lenin signed a decree nationalizing it, thereby emphasizing it was a treasure of the entire Soviet people.

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