Konstantin Mefodevich Maksimov "Sashka the Tractor Driver in Virgin Lands" (study, oil, 1954)

PBLL Project in Support of the Springville Museum of Art

SPRINGVILLE
MUSEUM OF ART

The Springville Museum of Art is the oldest visual arts museum in Utah. The Museum houses over 2,500 works in its permanent collection: the Utah art, the twentieth-century Soviet Realist art, and the American art works. The Museum seeks to fulfill its mission by refining minds and building character through the fine arts. The Springville Museum of Art's Russian and Soviet art collection is one of the largest in the United States. The Museum also has a growing library and archive of Soviet art in the Hafen-Dallin office.

Course

course information

- 3-week intensive foreign language course
- 7 students
- Speaking proficiency IL to AL

Challenge

challenge

Museum would welcome help of volunteers who possess both research and Russian language skills accompanied by the knowledge of Russian society and culture.

SLOs

student learning outcomes

The goal of the project was to serve as the integrated assessment of performance in

- **Interpretive listening and reading**
- **Presentational speaking and writing**
- **Interpersonal communication**
- **Intercultural communication**

The 2017 NCSSFL-ACTFL Can-Do Statements

Entry Event

entry event

- Meeting with the curator

Additionally, depending on access to resources, a variety of sources were/could be offered to students either online or face-to-face:

- Museum tour of the collection
- Online video (with a transcript/related article) about the art movement
- Lecture by an art historian

Questions

need-to-know questions and objections

Before students started working on the challenge, they, first, needed to "own" it. These objections were commonly voiced:

- What's in this for me?
- Will my work be appreciated?
- Can I do it?

After clarifying these points, students began to formulate project-related questions. Follow the link on the left to see some of the questions.

The Springville Museum of Art
NTK (need to know) questions

Who/What/Why questions Prepared by students for the interview with curator	How questions (i.e., students' objections) Collected by instructor during discussions
With little to no prior background in art history, what is the hope or expectation of our work?	... How would we learn about this art movement?
What research or resources are available on these works of art?	... How will we access the collection?
What is the most noteworthy painting in this collection and why?	... How would we learn more about this collection?
Why/how did the museum come to hold the largest number of pieces of Soviet art in the US?	... How would we decide what we would like to research?
What do museum visitors find interesting about the collection? Will they be interested in ...?	... How would we conduct the research we need?
What is the main goal of the Socialist Art exhibit? What would you want for the visitor to experience?	... How would we know we are moving in the right direction?
What role can our language/knowledge play in the project?	
What is the Russian history and influence in Springville?	
What is the demographic break-down of visitors?	

components and public product

In the project, students had freedom to choose theme/ artist(s)/ painting(s) and the final form for their output within a few general guides established for the final product and target skills.

The Public Product - to create materials that could be helpful to the curator, including for making decisions about ways the art collection could be presented to patrons.

At least three **component skills** agreed on were...

- **Research** sources available to me about theme/ artist(s)/ painting(s).

- **Interpret** meaning of works of art and their significance for Russian society, history and culture.

- **Evaluate** differences and commonalities with my culture to see how I can make these works of art appealing or interesting to museum's visitors.

Follow the link to the project description with assignment summary.

Alexei Vasiliev "They are Writing about Us in Pravda" (oil, 1951)

reflections

Please, find on this page links to samples of student peer reviews, examples of final product, and feedback on the project from different perspectives (participants, benefactor and guests of the final Gallery Walk presentations).

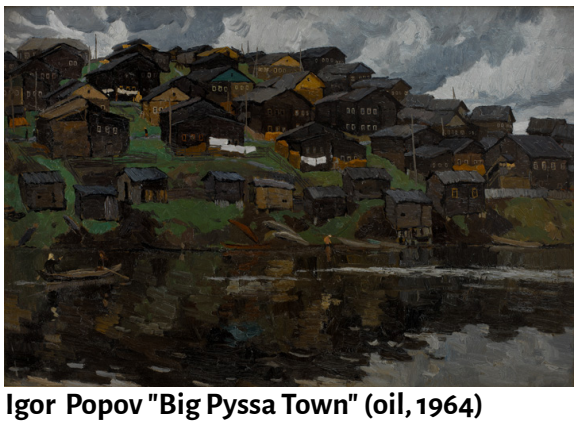
As a teacher, it was a pleasure working on this project and I extend sincere thanks to L2TReC and the National Foreign Language Resource Center for organizing the workshop and to the extremely knowledgeable teachers who taught us.

Thank you,

Elena Grajinskaya

Please, email with any questions

final product



Igor Popov "Big Pyssa Town" (oil, 1964)

peer reviews

Oleg Lomakin "Blockade of Leningrad" (oil, 1961)

feedback

Nikolai Furmankov "Mistress of the Road" (oil, 1964)