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THE MUSEUM of RUSSIAN ART

**THE MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN ART PRESENTS NEW EXHIBITION**  
***Olexa Bulavitsky: Immigrant Experiences and Ukrainian-American Art***  
January 30, 2016 – July 3, 2016  
The Museum of Russian Art, Lower Gallery

**MINNEAPOLIS** (January 4, 2016) – The Museum of Russian Art presents a new exhibition of paintings, *Olexa Bulavitsky: Immigrant Experiences and Ukrainian-American Art* in its Lower Gallery.

The exhibition unfolds the story of an immigrant artist, Olexa Bulavitsky, from his early years of professional training in Kiev, Odessa, and Leningrad to the difficult times of WWII, life in a Displaced Persons (DP) camp, immigration to the US, and a successful professional career in Minneapolis, MN. The display will include more than 40 paintings.



*Schooner "Conrad," 1960s. Oil on canvas.*

Born in 1916 in the Ukrainian town of Uman, Olexa Bulavitsky spent his early years in Ukraine, where he received his art training in Odessa and Kiev. He perfected his skills at the prestigious USSR Academy of Arts in Leningrad, returning to Ukraine to work as a set designer for Kiev theaters and film studios.

Drafted into the Soviet Army at the outbreak of WWII, he was captured by the Germans, then escaped and wandered through the Carpathian region into Slovakia, finding himself married and in a Displaced Persons camp (Berchtesgaden, Bavaria) by the end of the war. He immigrated to the US in 1950 and settled in



*Old Ukrainian Hut, Manitoba, Canada, 1970s.*  
Oil on canvas.

Minneapolis where he painted, taught, and exhibited until the end of his life. His paintings include still lifes, landscapes, and portraits in realist style.

In the 1950s, during his travels in Canada, the artist was brought to an old village of Sirko, built by Ukrainian immigrants as early as the 19th century. He was immediately taken by the old world charm of village dwellings, wooden gates, and churches. He often visited this and other Ukrainian settlements, where he enjoyed painting old houses of Ukrainian settlers. Reconnecting to his Ukrainian heritage, he

wanted to explore the “theme of immigration” as he put it, in his art. The exhibition will include some of the paintings he brought from his travels to Canada.

The works on display are drawn from the artist’s family collection as well as local private collections. The display will also include archival materials shedding light on the life and work of Olexa Bulavitsky.

### **About The Museum of Russian Art (TMORA)**

The Museum of Russian Art, a non-profit, educational institution, is the only museum in North America dedicated exclusively to the preservation and exhibition of all forms of Russian art and culture from different eras. TMORA is located in a state-of-the-art, historical building at 5500 Stevens Ave. S. (intersection of I-35W and Diamond Lake Road) in Minneapolis. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Monday-Friday), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Saturday) and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (Sunday). Admission is \$9 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for children 14 and up, as well as university students with ID; children under 14 are free. Museum members receive free admission. To learn more about the Museum’s exhibitions, events and history, visit <http://tmora.org/> or call 612-821-9045.

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