



The Scotland –Russia Forum
Форум Шотландия – Россия
www.scotlandrussiaforum.org

The Scotland-Russia Forum is an independent charity whose aim is to promote understanding of Russia and its neighbouring countries.

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ФОНД РУССКИЙ МИР

My Never-Ending Friend

Alexander Voitsekhovsky

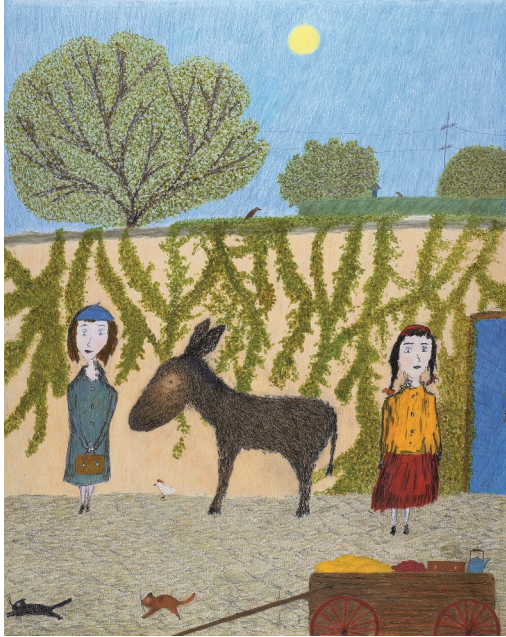


An exhibition at the
Scotland-Russia Institute

6 August-3 September 2011

EDINBURGH
ART
FESTIVAL

My Never-Ending Friend



Alexander Petrovich Voitsekhovskiy was born in Moscow in 1964, the grandson of a Polar explorer; he has lived almost all his life in Leningrad/ St Petersburg. He worked for ten years as a doctor with the emergency services, but was constantly drawing, for his own pleasure. He writes; 'I drew people, animals, various little scenes from the life of imaginary people who sprang from heaven knows where, wrote commentaries on them, and gave them to friends and fellow-students'. In 1994, these friends persuaded him to exhibit his work, with great success.

Eventually, he had to choose between art and medicine: 'To be honest, I didn't hesitate for long. I realised that my choice was a real risk, but my explorer genes prevailed. My relations were in a state of shock, but my wife Anya, a born artist, supported me, and I am very grateful to her. After this came further books, my own, or the works of others illustrated by me. I know my choice was absolutely right. At the same time, I understand that without the doctor there wouldn't have been an artist.' Alexander Voitsekhovskiy, exhibiting under his patronymic Petrovich, has had some twenty-five solo exhibitions, in Russia, the USA, Switzerland, France, Japan, Israel and England. Elena Varshavskaya of the Rhode Island School of Design describes him as 'an outstanding graphic artist, who stands out for a rare gift of bringing together warm humanity and playfulness, acumen and good humor.



Alexander Voitsekhovskiy



His endearing treatment of everyday life is always tempered with irony introduced through elements of absurdity, fantasy and surprise used with unfailing ingenuity.'

Aleksandr Adabashyan writes of his work: 'Alexander Voitsekhovskiy reveals to us a world that is instantly recognizable yet unlike anything that exists. We recognize people whom we have never seen or imagined, we experience fellow-feeling and compassion for things and people who have never been and never will be.'