



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

Registered charity no.SCO38728

The Scotland- Russia Institute
9 South College Street
Edinburgh
EH8 9AA

Phone: +44(0)131 668 3635

E-mail: info@scotlandrussiaforum.org

Web: www.scotlandrussiaforum.org



Russia's Cities: War and Poetry

Janet Treloar



An exhibition at the
Scotland-Russia Institute

The SRF exhibitions programme April-
December 2011 is sponsored by
the Russkiy Mir Foundation



7 May-4 June 2011

Russia's Cities: War and Poetry

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Janet Quintrell Treloar, born on the cliffs of West Cornwall, has lived and painted, mostly in watercolours, in many countries. Now living between Cornwall and London, elected a Member and currently Vice-President of the Royal Watercolour Society, she exhibits regularly at the RWS and the Chelsea Art Society. Three major themes have occupied her recently: the Romanesque arch as a visual language of medieval Europe, the wartime heroism of the Russian people, and the great Russian poet Anna Akhmatova, with exhibitions in London at the Piers Feetham Gallery, the Russian Embassy, Pushkin House and at the Galitzine Library, St Petersburg.

Janet Treloar writes of this exhibition: *Having grown up and spent most of my life in the shadow of the Cold War, with Soviet Communism as a*

constant threat, it was a revelation for me gradually to realise, through much reading and conversation, the colossal debt that we in Western Europe owe to the Russian people for ridding us of the evil of Hitlerism. The Stalinist regimes lay heavy on the East, but had it not been for the heroism of the Russian people and their immense sacrifice of life when they were our allies 1941-1945, I should probably have grown up in a Nazi puppet state. I met an American historian of the Eastern Front, Albert Axell, biographer of the great Marshal Zhukhov, and in December 2004 we visited the war sites of the three principle "hero cities", Moscow, Leningrad and Stalingrad. On that journey I set out to record such impressions of the war that remain with a sense of ever deepening gratitude.



When we returned I was honoured, and also rather astonished, to be invited by Ambassador Karazin, to exhibit the work in the Russian Embassy, London, opening on Russian National Day, May 2005. My work was to be part of the commemoration of the defeat of Nazism.

I was subsequently asked by Princess Galitzine to show the collection at the Prince George Galitzine Memorial Library in St Petersburg, and on that occasion I painted a new series in the home and in the city of the great poet Anna Akhmatova, the "Voice of all the Russias"

For more information please visit

www.royalwatercoloursociety.co.uk