

## Maximum Sustenance Level. “Culinary Masterpieces” by the Totibadze Dynasty

26.09 – 18.10.2019



Here is a cake. Another cake. Fat, protein, carbs. Khinkali! Meat! Meat! Meat! Cucumbers! Ribs! And once again – cake. Have a seat. Eat something and enjoy yourself.

The six artists whose works you can see at the present exhibition are connected at the very least by two circumstances – they know the value of a good meal and they all belong to the Totibadze dynasty. The Totibadze clan will surely go down in history as the “Totibadze dynasty” and will feature in school essays. One can easily imagine the kids writing down something as pretentious as the following: “The theme of food is a focal point in the art of all members of the Totibadze dynasty. Indeed, food was an essential part of their life. Perhaps, the painters loved to eat good food.” And, in all honesty, there is some truth to this, though this notion is not the most important thing about the Totibadzes.

There are few things remaining in the world that could bring together different people. The Totibadze family recognizes a single universal unifying element – a feast. Those who are fortunate to know them personally are well-aware that Totibadzes are among the finest hosts of various banquets and dinners with friends. One table is bound to be full of supremely delicious dishes and glasses of wine, while the neighboring table will be reserved for color palettes and brushes. No wonder then that food is the primary subject matter for many of the artists’ paintings: they depict what they know best. The more interesting it is to discover how six different painters present a single theme in six distinct styles.

Text Author – Filipp Dzyadko, journalist, Arzamas Education Project Editor-in-Chief, member of the Totibadze family.

The exhibition presents 30 paintings from five painters known under the surname Totibadze and one painter known under the surname Pasternak. George (Goga), Konstantin, Irina, Nana, Anton Totibadze, Alexandra Pasternak, and journalist Filipp Dzyadko have united in their support for the traditional Exhibition of Agricultural Achievements at GUM.

The exhibition launches the Parallel Program of the Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art.

Curator – Alexandra Lekomtseva

## About the Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art:

The Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art is one of the main projects promoting contemporary culture in Russia. The Biennale was established and is organized with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation since 2005. 2016 saw the complete overhaul of the project: the Moscow Biennale Expert Committee was created, the new committee is responsible for all creative decisions. The main project of the 8th Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art will be presented at the State Tretyakov Gallery from October 31, 2019 to January 22, 2020. For the first time ever, the Moscow Biennale will be partnered with the international institution Albertina (Vienna, Austria).

## About the Gallery:

GUM-Red-Line Gallery occupies a space of 280 SM in the front of GUM. Its windows exit onto the Red Square. Besides the spectacular architecture of Alexander Pomerantsev, these halls bear an extraordinary historical heritage – this is the actual location of the Henry Brocard Gallery that was opened right here in 1893. The exhibitions hosted by Brocard, a notable Moscow perfume magnate and collector, were presented here for almost ten years and turned GUM – at the time known as the Upper Trading Rows – from a prestigious shopping center into one of the most popular leisure venues for Muscovites. The concerts and artistic soirées that were held here became quite popular and gave a boost to the prestige of the shopping center. Contemporary art found its place in the Soviet GUM as well – Vladimir Mayakovsky and Alexander Rodchenko managed the department store's advertisement campaigns at the beginning of the 1920s.



While maintaining the legacy of the past, GUM-Red-Line Gallery is seen as the starting point for the cultivation of a new cultural space, where GUM customers can get an insight into contemporary art.

GUM is not only the department store No. 1 for Muscovites, but it is also an essential landmark for visiting tourists: GUM annually receives more than 30 million people. It is an architectural monument and at the same time a comfortable space, an art gallery, and an event venue.

**The Gallery, located on the Third Floor, First Line, is open every day, from 10 till 22.**

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