

## PRESS RELEASE

September 9, 2015 - Saskatoon Canada

### Musée Ukraina Museum welcomes major retrospective exhibit of artist Ivan Ostafiychuk

**October 18 2015:** Musée Ukraina Museum (MUM) in Saskatoon continues its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year celebration with a retrospective solo exhibition of visual artist Ivan Ostafiychuk. The Saskatoon exhibit coincides with a major retrospective exhibit of the artist's work at the Sheptytsky National Museum in Lviv, Ukraine. Exhibits in both Lviv and Saskatoon provide a temporal panorama of Ostafiychuk's creative works spanning the years from 1965 to 2015. The official opening and reception will be held October 18th at the Musée Ukraina Museum, 222 Avenue M South, at 2:00pm.

Ivan Ostafiychuk was born in 1940 in the village of Trostianec in the picturesque Carpathian Mountains of Ukraine. His early artistic inspiration and development stemmed from his creative father and the rich cultural environment of the Hutsul region of Ukraine. After graduating from the Lviv Institute of Applied and Decorative Arts in 1966, his early professional career concentrated on printmaking and the graphic arts. His early linoprints reflect the popularity of folk arts among Ukrainian artists of the 1960s. Throughout his creative career, Ivan Ostafiychuk's choice of themes consistently speaks to inherent cultural consciousness and thereby strengthens the concept of identity.

Starting in 1963, Ivan Ostafiychuk regularly participated in regional, national and international exhibits. His first important solo exhibition was held to great critical acclaim at the prestigious Lviv National Art Gallery in 1979. In 1980, he was awarded the gold medal at the IXth Biennale of Graphic Art in Brno, then Czechoslovakia, for a series of monotypes based on Ukrainian folk songs. Further international exhibits soon followed in Germany, Belgium and France.

With the help and encouragement of a supportive international community, Ivan and his musician wife Dzvinka reluctantly left the oppressive artistic milieu of Ukraine and settled in Toronto, Canada in January of 1988. Very successful exhibitions soon followed in Edmonton, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Cleveland, Rochester, Detroit, New York and Los Angeles. However, in 1993, with duty, colleagues, freedom of expression and a brighter future beckoning, Ivan and Dzvinka left Canada to re-establish themselves in their dramatically changed homeland. En route to Lviv, Ukraine, a very successful exhibit was sponsored in Paris, France. Upon his return to Lviv, Ivan resumed his prolific artistic output and teaching studio.

During 2001, Ivan Ostafiychuk returned to Paris to seek further inspiration for his creative drive and, of course, to paint. Solo exhibits followed during 2002-3 in Toronto, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Ottawa, Montreal, Rockford Ill. and Chicago, with repeat shows in Saskatoon in 2005.

In 2007, the president of Ukraine personally awarded Ivan Ostafiychuk the prestigious National Taras Shevchenko Award of Ukraine for his three work-cycles titled: "*My Ukraine*", "*Journey to Baturyn*" and "*The Boyko's Saga*".

To this day, Ivan Ostafiychuk remains dedicated to the continual development of his art. He is a visual poet who expresses his thoughts and emotions with great skill, clarity and imagination. Ivan Ostafiychuk's compositions are imbued with symbolic colors which, combined with his distinct, graphically expressive lines and forms, pulse with rhythmic energy and never fail to impress with an element of spiritual empowerment.

The exhibit at the Musée Ukraina Museum - 222 Avenue M South, Saskatoon - runs from October 18th 2015. MUM hours are Sundays, 11:30am to 4:30pm, or by appointment.

For more information, please contact Anna Mycyk at (306) 477-1118.

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References: KUMF Gallery Publications