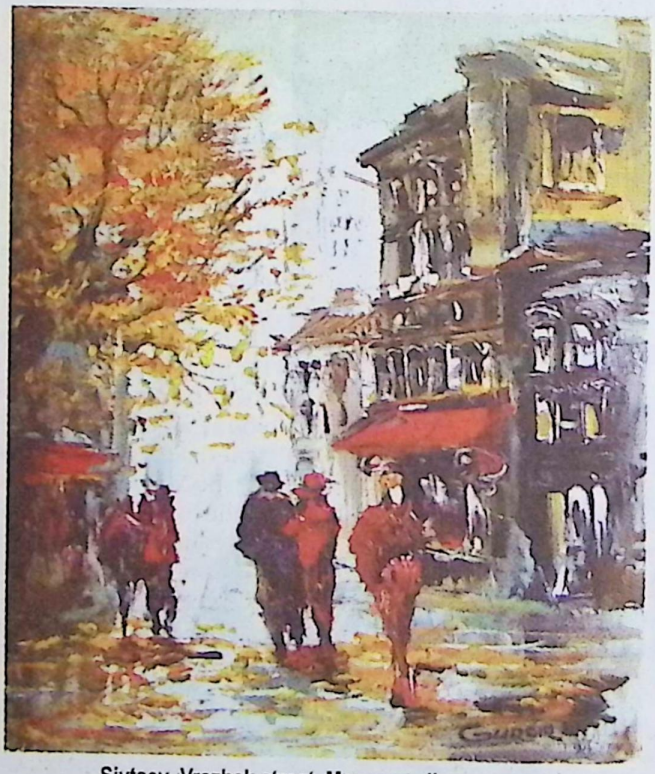
Gentle Strolls along Moscow Streets

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If anyone was of the impression that Russia was cold and grim, looking at Liudmila Gurar's pulsating and vibrant colours in her street scenes and bunches of flowers one would feel that here was the welcoming home of people full of joie de vivre. With her Titian red hair and warm smile, Ludmila is here from Moscow to share her experiences and views with art lovers in Dhaka. She does this by presenting her lively canvases, two of which carry scenes from Dhaka. Coming to Bangladesh, she hopes to get to know the people and learn of their multi-faceted art and culture that goes down through the centuries. She has already been to places like the Sunderbans and Mainamati, and has come away awestruck, determined to see more of this country with its treasures.

Liudmila says, "In the technology era, oil, which has been for hundreds of years in the past, can still express best the emotions and dreams of an artist and so I too have stuck to oils. In this medium, the colours too can have numerous variations and depth."



Sivtsev Vrazhek street, Moscow, oil on canvas.

She goes in for scenes with tall, strolling human figures, seen going about at a leisurely pace. She is keen in portraying the beauty of the day-to-day life of the city and its people. She also does flowers, which many women painters are fond of, and tries her hand at abstraction too.

Liudmila, who began drawing and painting, picked up the mastery of lines and colours from her father, who was also a painter. In her baby language, she called a pen "kai-kai" and begged of her father to draw and paint along with him. She graduated from Moscow State Textile Academy but went in for oil and canvas expertise. She participated in many art exhibitions as in the US, Spain, Austria. The last exhibition that she took part in was the 285 anniversary of the Russian Academy of Arts. Her favourite painters are El Greco and Valesquez. She also admires certain Russian painters like Korovin.

In one of the canvases, ladies in bright red, accompanied by their chaperons, are seen walking down Arbat Street. Some of the figures at the back are dark. Buildings with their arches, colonnades turrets and windows are brought in with subtlety. The sky in the background merges with horizontal sweeps with the tall buildings. The atmosphere is homely, cheerful and inviting.



Liudmila Gurar

Along with the evocative shutters and doors of the past, which have survived through the years, are the bright yellow and gold autumn leaves to be seen in Sibtev Vrazhek street. Sketchy lines and blobs of bold colours represent the clothing, while variations of brown bring in the details of the buildings to the left. With seeps of impressionistic hues, the artist has brought in the scene in an incredibly moving way.

The buildings in Taganka street appear more black and grey, although set off by more tall buildings in white at the back. The season here is again autumn, going by the leaves of the trees, while the pedestrians carry umbrellas. The women