

Press release

An increasing number of works attributed to Alexandra Exter has appeared on the European art market over the last few years. In the great majority of cases these are works in theatrical, abstract or cubo-futurist style done in oils on canvas or gouache on paper. In very recent times purist works from the artist's last Parisian period have been added to them.

With regard to the provenance of most of the works that were unknown before the mid-1990s or even, and particularly, more recently still, reference is most frequently made to the "painter's studio". However, among these stylistically doubtful works, whose execution is markedly different from that of works by this major artist of the Russian avant-garde, which are undisputable because they have been duly documented, none has been listed in her studio archives. Shortly before her death Alexander Exter took the precaution of bequeathing these archives in her will, together with the works still remaining in her possession, to Simon Lissim, and they are today in the care of the Alexandra Exter Association. This Association, which comes under the law of 1 July 1901, was registered in Paris on 20 September 2000.

In response to queries regarding the authenticity of certain of these newly "discovered" works, I am obliged to make it known that in addition to stylistic considerations which contradict their attribution to the hand of Alexandra Exter, graphological analysis of the stereotyped signature that appears on most of them has established that this is not an authentic signature but a calligraphed imitation of one of the artist's later signatures.

Several requests have also been made for information with regard to the pigments used by the artist: chemical examination of these pigments will be made in the very near future. Samples of the authentic pigments used by Alexander Exter are indeed readily available, including the artist's palette. These analyses have long been scheduled by a world-renowned European institute of art history, and their imminent results will shortly make it possible to constitute a standard reference.

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