Reception at Shevchenko Museum

— Story photos: Jerry Dobrowolsky

Eighteen pastel paintings by Roksolyana Pidhainy-Benoit graced the walls of the gallery at the Taras Shevchenko Museum as the exhibition and sale of her work was opened on October 28. The artist, along with a few of the over 50 art lovers who were present for the occasion, are shown above.

Roksolyana Pidhainy-Benoit introduced her father, the model for her piece "Old Cossack".

Lyudmyla Pogoryelova, Shevchenko Museum Director who acted as MC, started the formal part of the late afternoon by expressing a welcome to those in attendance.

Myroslava Boikiv, who had an exhibition at the Shevchenko Museum in February, spoke at this reception.

Late in the afternoon on Saturday, October 28, the Taras Shevchenko Museum in Toronto opened its new season with a reception to launch *Reflections Pastels by Roksolyana Pidhainy-Benoit*, an exhibition and sale of 18 works by the artist. The launch drew an audience of over 50 art lovers.

(A discussion of the artist and her work appeared in the November, 2017, issue of the "UCH".)

Lyudmyla Pogoryelova, Director of Taras Shevchenko Museum, acted as MC for the opening. Ms. Pogoryelova started the formal part of the reception with a welcome to those in attendance, and a few comments about the exhibition and the artist.

First to speak following the introductory remarks was Myroslava Boikiv. Ms. Boikiv, who had her own art exhibition in the Museum's art gallery in February of this year, spoke about the art, the artist, and the importance of such events as this exhibition. Ms. Boikiv spoke in Ukrainian; her remarks were translated into English by Oksana Hrycyna.

Arif Virani, Member of Parliament for Parkdale – High Park, was present with his family and an aide from his constituency office. In his remarks, Mr. Virani pleaded

Member of Parliament Arif Virani attended the reception with his family, expressing his thanks for the invitation.

innocence of qualifications as an art critic. This did not disqualify him from appreciation of the invitation to attend the event and to speak. He spoke, among other things, about the importance of immigration and about Canada's close ties to Ukraine.

Final scheduled speaker was the artist, Roksolyana Pidhainy-Benoit.

After reading a few brief remarks in Ukrainian, Ms. Pidhainy-Benoit, who was born in Toronto and lived her life in Canada and the USA, switched to English. She spoke about her work, her motivation and her influences.

(Roksolyana Pidhainy-Benoit had work displayed at the Shevchenko Museum in September to November, 2016, as part of a group show commemorating the 125 anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada.)

The opening ceremonies ended with a performance by the talented young bandura player Borys Ostapienko. To the delight of his audience, Mr. Ostapienko played a medley of Ukrainian music. A short time later, he played briefly as people socialized over a bit of food and drink.

Lyudmyla Pogoryelova thanked everyone who had made a presentation, as well as those attending, and particularly the artist. She then invited everyone to enjoy the balance of the event by viewing the pieces of art (and, perhaps, even buying one) and enjoying the refreshments being offered.

Talented bandura player Borys Ostapienko delighted his audience with a medley of Ukrainian music.

Over 50 art lovers attended the opening of *Reflections: Pastels by Roksolyana Pidhainy-Benoit*. They were treated to a variety of refreshments.