



Asaf Jafarov, a master of composition in various genres

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"Rest". Canvas. Oil. 1958-1959

Asaf Aliskandar oglu Jafarov was born in Baku into the family of a teacher in 1927. In 1945-1950, he studied at the decorative and applied arts department of the Azerbaijan Art School named after A. Azimzade. After graduating from this alma mater, he decided to continue his studies and, according to the practice of those days, entered Moscow State Art Institute named after V. Surikov in 1951. For six years, he studied under the leadership of such promi-

nent artists and teachers as F. Reshetnikov, V. Nechitaylo, V. Tsiplakov, etc. Being in constant creative search, Asaf Jafarov managed to develop his signature style, working in a number of genres. His works are rich and characterized by peculiar features. Asaf Jafarov gained fame as a master of lyrical landscapes, although an extensive place in his work is also occupied by works in the genre of portraiture, still life and domestic story-lines.

"Air-conditioners plant". Canvas. Oil. 1977



The start of Asaf Jafarov's creative career, the 1950s, was marked by creative trips to different countries. In 1954, the artist, together with several institute associates, traveled to Kazakhstan, where he created a number of sketches in the genre of portraiture, landscape and domestic scenes. In the works created during this trip, one can feel the influence of local artistic traditions. In general, it is possible to state that the trip to Kazakhstan played a major role in expanding the artist's general outlook and contributed to the emergence of his individual creative style.

In 1956, the young artist traveled to India and Pakistan. That visit can be viewed as a new stage in his creative career. The works created during the trip are distinguished by professional color composition, which imparted a unique mood and liveliness to them. These are the landscape paintings "Bread for Pakistan", "By the ditch", "Indian boy", "On the river Nussuri". I would like to dwell especially on the last painting, in which the artist masterfully used shades of emerald green, depicting the calm flow of the river and coastal trees reflected in its waters, as well as other elements of the surround-

"Portrait of composer A. Malikov". Canvas. Oil. 1967



ing landscape. In the foreground, we see a boy standing under a palm tree, a figure that the artist used to keep the composition symmetrical. In the background, the trees are placed in an ascending line, resting against the blue sky, which completes the composition. Although the riverbed divides the composition in two, the unity of color gives it wholeness.

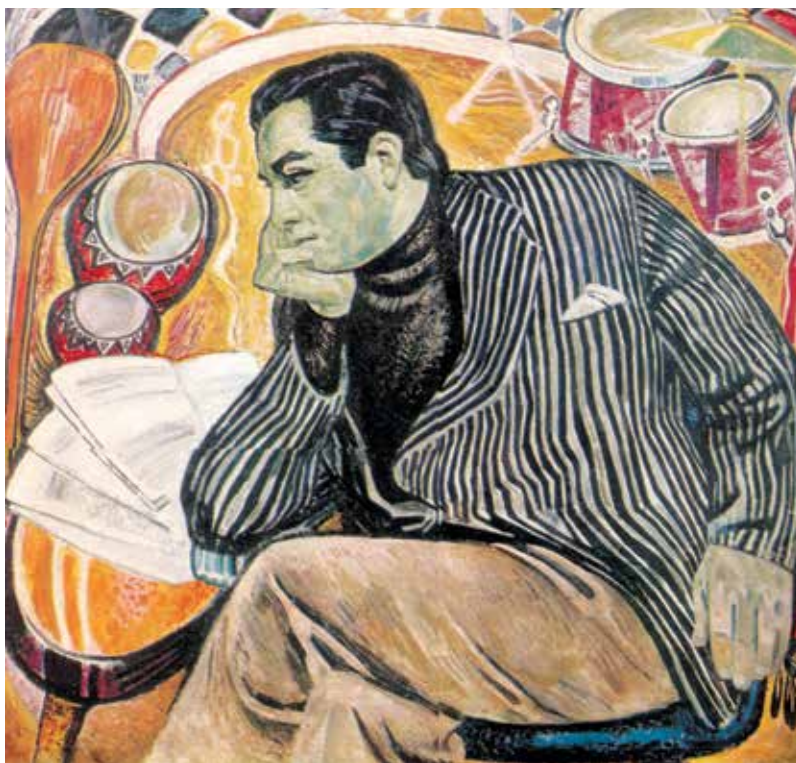
It should be noted that the period of the 1950-1960s in Azerbaijani fine arts was marked by the formation and development of an "austere style". This trend did not bypass the early works of Asaf Jafarov. This style prioritizes a dramatic disclosure of the inner world and resolute qualities of the image. The thematic works of the artist created in this style were intended to convey to the audience the images of heroes of labor and their creative work, which is based on inexhaustible strength. This orientation corresponded to the general ideological attitude of that era. As examples of such works, we can refer to such paintings as "By the ditch" (1958) and "Under the tree" (1959). The former has a very interesting compositional structure: in the center, there is a ditch, which divides the painting in two. The girl on the right, smoothing her hair, attracts the viewer's attention with her bright red garment. Possessing a developed sense

of color, Asaf Jafarov, with the help of skillful choice of color and masterful use of the effect of light shade, created a picture typical of his creative style.

Asaf Jafarov has created many paintings in the landscape genre, in which the artist shows the beauty of nature of his native country. These include "Buzovna Village", "My Azerbaijan", "Mountains", "An Old Tree", "Snow in Baku", "Spring".

The portrait genre occupies a major place in Asaf Jafarov's works. It is represented by such works as "Composer Arif Melikov", "Aliagha Vahid", "Sattar Bahlulzada", "Vaiha Samadova", "Rashid Behbudov", "Vagif Mustafayev", etc. In general, the works of this artist are characterized by a variety of themes and genres. For example, among his works in the genre of still life, we should note "Jasmine", "Irises", "A Basket of Red Pepper. Still Life", "Quince. Still Life", "Pomegranates".

The 1960-1970s saw the heyday of Azerbaijani fine arts. Such recognized masters as Mikayil Abdullayev, Boyukagha Mirzazada, Sattar Bahlulzada, Taghi Taghiyev and others played a significant role in the development of Azerbaijani painting created in this period. Asaf Jafarov has also made a sizable contribution. Already in the 1950s, the artist participated in various exhibitions and was awarded a number of prizes. It is worth mentioning his participation in the 1979 international



"Rashid Behbudov". Canvas, oil. 1975



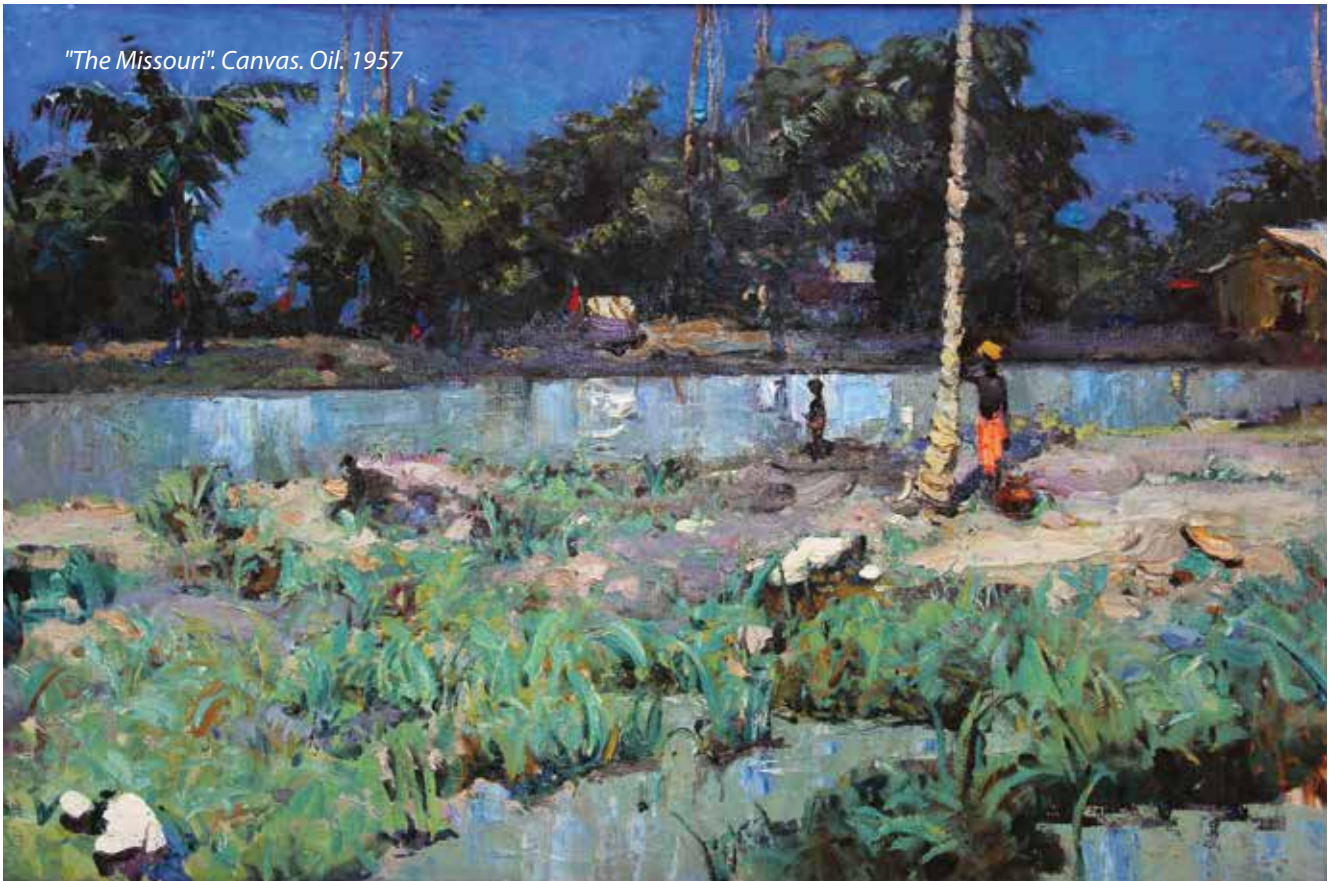


"Offshore field". Canvas. Oil. 1955

"Indian youngster". Canvas. Oil. 1957



"The Missouri". Canvas. Oil. 1957



"A word about tomorrow". Canvas. Oil. 1967

exhibition of fine arts in Austria, where he was awarded the "Grand Prix". The first personal exhibition of Asaf Jafarov's works was held in the Central House of Artist in Moscow in 1983. It was met with great enthusiasm by art lovers. Three years later, Asaf Jafarov was awarded the honorary title of Honored Artist of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. In 1997, the artist took part in an exhibition of modern Azerbaijani art organized with

the participation of the UN Office in Azerbaijan. His second personal exhibition was held at the French Embassy in Azerbaijan in 1998. In 2000, Asaf Jafarov was awarded the National Prize "Umay" in the nomination of fine arts.

As we can see, the works of Azerbaijani artist Asaf Jafarov have always been duly recognized, including by the state. He died in 2001. Asaf Jafarov's creativity left a significant mark in the history of Azerbaijani fine arts. 🌸

*"Winter". Canvas. Oil. 1962-1963*