

In Search of Beauty

Outstanding quality and a large variety of arts is the first impression of acquaintance with the production of *Gems Art Studio*. A great assortment of materials, styles, and techniques employed in creation of arts can please the most sophisticated tastes and meet any requirements. Beginning with the mosaic panels of traditional landscapes and modern townscapes, reproductions of famous artists of the past, uniquely designed clocks, retro style vases and candelabrum, home decor arts, coffee tables and chess sets, and ending with special private and museum orders – all of these and much more are currently being produced by the Studio.

Konstantin Libman, the founder and the President of the *Gems Art Studio*, says that there are no priorities either in type of materials or in style of arts, yet there is a constant aspiration and creative search... His life per se is a constant creative search. He began his career within the arena of professional sports as a part of famous saber-fencers team CSKA in Moscow. At his young age, he repeatedly became a champion of a variety of tournaments representing CSKA and later New York Athletic Club. Then for a while he continued his career as a coach. With age, Konstantin decided to undertake his career change and navigated a new arena of marketing and sales. He became a trading-broker delivering to Russia all sorts of products, which were in demand at that time.

At that time Konstantin began giving his business partners non-standard gifts – the ‘sprinkled’ Ural mosaics from Russia. Unexpectedly, Americans fell in love with the mosaics, and they became a great success. However, being a talented artist himself, Konstantin found no satisfaction with the quality of the mosaics, and he arrived to the idea of creating his own art studio.

In Ural's small town he gathered together highly professional and talented artists and craftsmen, and then founded a stone-cutting workshop. At first, the studio specialized in producing useful arts such as small candleholders, picture frames, clocks, small mosaics etc. Then the studio began reproducing complex arts of famous artists of the past. With





growing and expanding, the Studio began working on large sophisticated projects and creating unique arts, which brought the attention of museums and private collectors.

A turning point in Konstantin's perceptions of gemstone arts happened during his first arrival to Tucson International Gems Exhibit. He found himself totally captured by the fascinating atmosphere, created by worldwide artists enamored with the gems' soul and beauty. Alexander Agafonov and Gennady Osmerkin, whom Konstantin regards as his teachers, played a crucial role in the formation of his artistic professionalism.

Today, Konstantin Libman is the President, Financial Director, and General Artist of *Gems Art Studio*. His studio is bringing Russian art to the world as well as widening the horizons of Russian artists by bringing gems, crystals, and other unique materials from all over the world to Russia. In creating the unique arts, *Gems Art Studio* is utilizing an infinite variety of amazing materials, such as Agate from Brazil and Madagascar, Jasper from the Ural Mountains, Malachite from the Central Africa, unique Charoite from Pribaikalye, Picasso Jasper from Italy, Amazonite from Kola Peninsula, Petrified Wood from Kirghizia, and many others, the list is endless...

The artworks of *Gems Art Studio* may be found within numerous private collections all over the world and in a several Russian museums.

When selecting material for his future products, Konstantin is guided by two criteria: unique beauty and high quality. They are the basics when estimating the completed artworks.

'That is created by Nature cannot be duplicated by human hands. Therefore intervention in its creativity should be minimal' – states Konstantin Libman.

The chests presented here well demonstrate this principle.

Arts shown on these pages created by *Gems Art Studio*; the materials utilized are Lazurite, Amazonite, Rodonite, Malachite, Nephrite, Marble, Agate, and Jasper.

Photo: Michael B. Leybov and Ivan Konstantinov