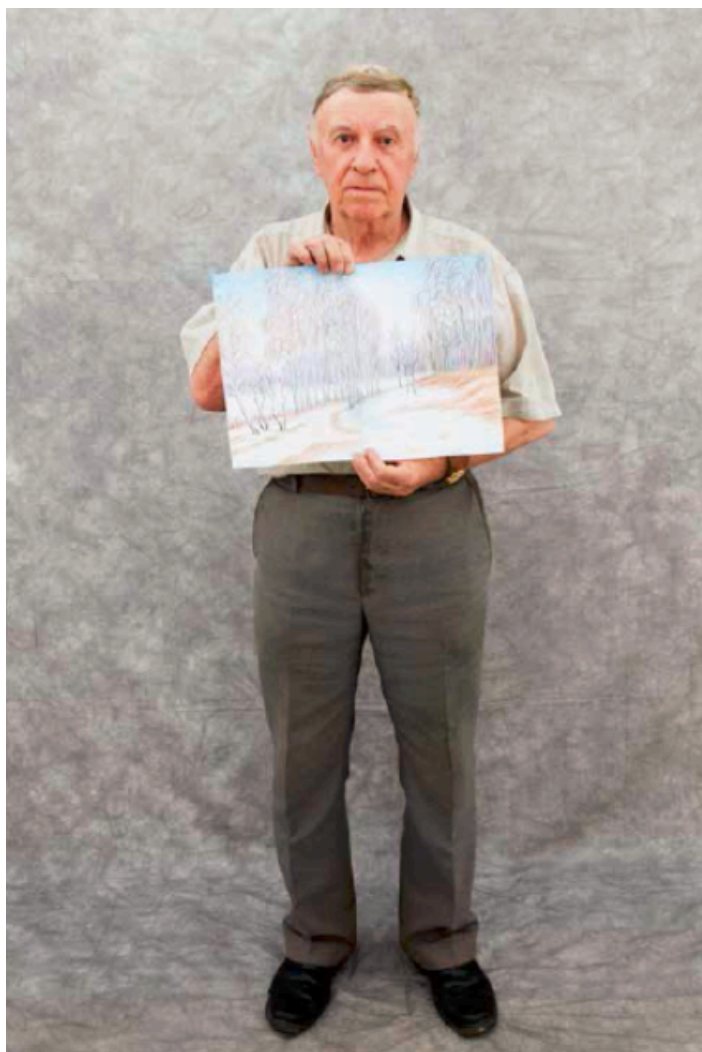


Viktor Kulikov

Interview with The Museum of Everything



I have drawn one sketch a day for fourteen years.

Where do you do your work?

Just like an artist has an indoor studio, so I have a natural studio. I draw around the area where I live in Nizhny Novgorod. For example,

there is a beautiful lake and a picturesque bank. There's also a forest. For the last fourteen years I've done this regularly every day, in all weather conditions, even when it's twenty five below. I just wrap up well and draw!

How did it begin?

I loved to draw as a child. Then just like Pushkin's rebirth in Boldino, it hit me: I was on the banks of the Oka, where the pine forest is, I looked around and saw how amazing the shades and colours were. I drew a sketch, then thought to myself, why not return tomorrow? That's how it started.

Is it always in the morning?

If I go out in the evening, the day is gone. In the morning everything is just beginning. So I spend an hour at 9am every day. It takes me two days to make each picture. One day isn't enough to capture the natural surroundings, sometimes I expand on what I see in nature. It's not like being a photographer, I try to go deeper.

Where do you store your work?

I keep everything at home. My library has over 40,000 books and my collection contains over 4,000 drawings. Nothing is framed, I keep everything just as it is.

Would you call yourself an artist?

I'm definitely not a professional artist. I draw every day, like an educated person might read a

few pages every day. What I believe is that everyone - every child and adult - should not only read, but should imagine something every day. People can express their thoughts with verbal or visual language. It's how they used to do it in ancient times. They are both as important as each other.

So is what you do art?

Art should be new, we've had enough of the old art. Everything comes in good time. What is new and original anyway?

Viktor Kulikov

b 1937 (Nizhny Novgorod, Russia)

Every day, 9am on the dot, the strict 15-year practice of this former historical educator forms an eternal encyclopedia, capturing not only nature's daily shifts, but the developing metaphorical landscape of Nizhny Novgorod and beyond.