

Aufust, 2016

THE RUSSIAN ARTIST REVEALS THE AMAZING WORLD OF THE PAMIRS

At the beginning of August, the famous Russian artist Galina Stepan held a master class on fine arts for local schoolchildren in the village of Razuj in the Rushan district of GBAO.

During the open-air master class in the picturesque Bartang Valley, Galina Stepan taught a group of local talented children and teenagers the subtleties of painting a portrait and landscape. Immediately after the master class, an exhibition of drawings by local children - the artist's pupils - took place. The exhibition made an unforgettable impression on both the residents of Razuj village and foreign tourists traveling in the Bartang Valley.

G. Stepan, a painter and graphic artist, a member of the Union of Artists of Russia, has been visiting different districts of the Pamir for 10 years already and teaching gifted children composition, drawing and painting.

"There are a lot of gifted children in the Pamirs who are grabbing everything I teach them," says G. Stepan. As she mentioned, "it's an amazingly beautiful nature, and children have access to this beauty, they understand nature and catch its soul. Therefore, it is very interesting to work with them. Beauty is the energy that gives strength, and whoever sees beauty is happy. Me and my local students help children to see this beauty. I have never met such a strong desire to learn from the children of the Pamirs anywhere."

The master-class and exhibition were also attended by pupils of the famous artist, musician and teacher Safar Gulomaliyev, who is currently a pensioner. According to G. Stepan, Gulomaliyev needs to continue his creative work on teaching children at school, and he could prepare them for entering art universities. "There are very few such talented specialists, so he needs to be returned to school," mentioned G. Stepan.

As the artist noted, we have to educate children about creativity and life, not leave them on the streets. According to her, she has many projects for further work with children in GBAO, and if they are supported by local authorities and NGOs, she and her students will continue to educate gifted children.

Many of Stepan's students have received or are receiving art education. Parisa Nazarova, from Khorog, a student of architecture at the Tajik Technical University in Dushanbe, said she had studied with G. Stepan for several years, which made it much easier for her to enter the university.

"I am very grateful to Galina for her knowledge, skills and experience. Now, during the holidays, my teacher and I are teaching the children in Bartang what I learned from her," said Parisa.

As the local children - pupils of G. Stepan noted that, they are very fond of the nature of their native land and feel the connection with it, so they learn to draw mountains, rivers, trees, plants and animals with pleasure.

The Russian artist has been teaching gifted children for two months now in the Bartang Valley, which was badly damaged by the devastating earthquake December of previous year. Her creative trip to this remote mountainous region, as well as her master class and exhibition in the village of Razuj were held with the support of the CAMP Tabiat Public Foundation as part of the project "Ecosystem –based Adaptation to Climate Change in High Mountainous Regions of Central Asia" (EbA).

The EbA project is being implemented by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on behalf of the German Government. In Tajikistan GIZ partner in the project implementation is CAMP Tabiat.

“Fine arts help to raise children's awareness of their natural environment. By helping teachers who teach children to love nature, we are helping nature itself,” said Umed Bulbulshoyev, director of CAMP Tabiat.

