

# Naive Art in the USSR as an Odd Project of Proletarian Hegemony

*Anna Suvorova*

Who is higher – a poet  
or technician,  
a worker  
enabling people to thrive?  
Both.

A heart is another motor.  
A soul is another drive.

We're equal.

Comrades in a working mass.  
Proletarians of body and mind.  
Together  
we'll bepaint the world around us,  
make it sing of joy and pride.

V. Mayakovsky. Poet worker. 1918

*Proletariat living its own life, so  
different from those of its  
predecessors, need its own art  
[highlighted by Alexandr Bogdanov].  
And it will have it, for it is a great  
class with its energy growing, and  
creativity developing; it is the heir of  
the universal culture”*

Bogdanov, A. *Cultural tasks of our time  
(in Russian)*. Moscow: published by  
S.Dorvatsky and A.Charushnikov, 1911

*“Everyone is born talented and gifted, and then influenced by their family, school and state. <...> I am from a working class background. My father has been a factory worker his whole life. So I am a working man, just like a doctor or a teacher”*

*Interviewing amateur artist Eduard Solodkov . 2012, April*

## Propaganda “for” and “against”

Ivan Krokhalev (1899–1984)  
Harvest. 1940



## Sincere didact of Communism

Konstantin Skorynin (1918 - 2002)  
Presentation of the PPD  
submachine gun to P. Zykov, a  
military intelligence officer. 1975



## Sincere didact of Communism

Konstantin Skorynin(1918 - 2002)  
Anti-tank riflemen going to the  
frontline.The Leningrad Front.  
1943. 1992



## Sincere didact of Communism

Konstantin Skorynin (1918 - 2002)

A jar of jam.

An award to the adolescent  
workers (children) at the Perm  
Engine Factory in the office of the  
director, General A.G.  
Soldatov.1944 1993





## Sincere didact of Communism

Konstantin Skorynin (1918 - 2002)  
Military intelligence officer  
Philimonov with a captured  
accordion. 1942. The Volkhov  
Front.1991



## Sincere didact of Communism

Konstantin Skorynin (1918 - 2002)  
From the rear to the front.  
Whipping round for warplanes in  
the 'Borba' ['Fight'] kolkhoz in the  
Novosibirsk region.1994



## Artists documentalists

Nikolay Tyurin (born 1926)

Portrait of Yuri Gagarin, the first  
human in space. 1986



## Artists documentalists

Nikolay Tyurin (born 1926)  
Cosmonauts on their native  
land.2004



## Nina and Pushkin

Nina Bashkova (1940 - 2000)

Pushkin, the star of Russia. 1995  
- 1997



## Cultured hooligan

Rudolf Tyurin (1939 – 2008)  
Off with drug addiction and  
on with sobriety! 1985



## Cultured hooligan

Rudolf Tyurin (1939 - 2008)  
Where are you going to  
study? 1978



## Cultured hooligan

Rudolf Tyurin (1939 - 2008)  
Tomorrow you are joining  
the army. 1972





## Cultured hooligan

Rudolf Tyurin (1939 - 2008)  
Students helping collective  
farmers reap potatoes.  
1980s



## Cultured hooligan

Rudolf Tyurin (1939 - 2008)  
Provincial girls. 1991

