



### **1932-1933 We Remember!**

Valeriy Vitter, Kyiv, Ukraine  
2006, 75x110, tempera on board

*From the collection: Holodomor Through the Eyes of Ukrainian Artists.  
Trustee: Morgan Williams*

### **“Our Daily Bread”, an exhibition of artworks commemorating the Ukrainian Holodomor -Genocide, opens Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at the Ukrainian National Museum, 2249 West Superior, Chicago**

*“They put a gun to your head and made you swear you would bring in grain the next day. Everyone cried. There was nothing left to bring!”*

--Hanna Ikasivna Cherniuk, Holodomor survivor

In 1932 and 1933, between seven and 10 million Ukrainians were deliberately starved to death during the “Holodomor”—or death by starvation. This genocide was masterminded by Joseph Stalin and his inner circle, and was carried out by Soviets who confiscated every last bit of food from Ukrainian peasants who were resistant to collective farming—and who represented the backbone of the Ukrainian people.

This year, 2008, marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Holodomor, and the government of Ukraine as well as Ukrainians around the world have been organizing events in an effort to expose and publicize this crime against humanity while there are still survivors young enough to recall its horrors.

In Chicago, the latest event commemorating the Holodomor is an exhibition at the Ukrainian National Museum opening Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. “Our Daily Bread” features 54 artworks that are part of the “Holodomor: Through The Eyes of Ukrainian Artists” collection. The founder and trustee of the unusual collection, U.S. businessman Morgan Williams, gathered the over 350 Holodomor artworks during the last 11 years in Ukraine.

Most of the artworks were created in 1988 and later, when Ukrainians were finally free to evoke the suffering and horrors of the Holodomor in the last days of the USSR, right before Ukraine declared independence. Before 1988 no one was allowed to talk about this tragedy let alone express themselves through artwork or writings. Many Ukrainian artists may very well have only learned of the Holodomor at that time, after decades of extreme Soviet suppression of the atrocities.

The government of Ukraine has officially declared the Holodomor a genocide against the Ukrainian people and is asking the United Nations to do so as well. Just this past September, the United States House of Representatives passed a Resolution condemning the Holodomor and the former Soviet government’s deliberate confiscation of grain harvests, which resulted in the starvation of millions of Ukrainian men, women, and children.

It was a devastating chapter of Stalin’s reign of terror that wiped out one quarter of the peasantry—and later included the intelligentsia and other leaders of Ukrainian society who were shot and exiled by the hundreds of thousands in an attempt to destroy the Ukrainian nation. And it was carried out at a time when Ukraine, then officially the Ukrainian SSR, had one of the richest farmlands in the world—“the breadbasket of Europe.”

“Our Daily Bread” officially opens at 6:30 PM with a program that features a short video by Ukrainian singer Oksana Bilozir and an opening statement by the granddaughter of a Holodomor survivor, Ms. Oryna Hrushetsky-Schiffman. The exhibition will also include a room depicting what life was like in Ukraine prior to enforced collectivization—as well as an evocative walk-through installation depicting the horrors of the Holodomor. The exhibition is on view through Sunday, November 30, 2008.

The Ukrainian National Museum is located at 2249 West Superior Street in the Ukrainian Village neighborhood. Call 312-421-8020 or visit [www.ukrainiannationalmuseum.org](http://www.ukrainiannationalmuseum.org) for more information. Museum Hours – Thursday through Sunday 11:00am -4:00pm.