

## FOREWORD

The Taras Shevchenko Museum opens its 66th season with PICTURESQUE UKRAINE, an exhibit of contemporary fine art, generously donated to us by more than 40 artists from almost every region of Ukraine.

These 49 works, depicting the beauty, nature, people, culture and customs of their native land, are rendered with love and reverence for its ancestral traditions and the glorious history of Ukraine and its heroes. All the pieces in this collection of oils, acrylics, watercolours, pastels, graphics, and collages were created to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Taras Shevchenko's birth. They were previously displayed, in 2014, at the National Shevchenko Museum in Kyiv, Ukraine, as part of a multi-stage event called *200 Ukrainian Artists on the 200th Anniversary of Taras Shevchenko*. It stands to reason that a special place in the collection belongs to this great poet and artist, for the life and works of this genius of world renown have, for generations, inspired and continue to inspire countless works of art on diverse themes in a wide range of styles and genres.

It is no accident that this exhibit is called PICTURESQUE UKRAINE. In 1844, Taras Shevchenko created a series of engravings which he intended to publish as a periodical under the name *Picturesque Ukraine (Zhyvopysna Ukraina)*. It was to be devoted to the history, people, customs, folklore, nature, and historical monuments of Ukraine. However, financial difficulties and his arrest made it impossible for him to realize his lofty plan. The one album of six engravings that was published received wide acclaim in the press.

The Taras Shevchenko Museum is honoured to receive this rich and generous gift. These works of fine art are a significant and important addition to the Museum's collections and will serve to popularize Ukrainian culture not only with Canadians but also with people the world over.

*Lyudmyla Pogoryelova, Director  
Taras Shevchenko Museum*

