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Title: Tchelitchew and Neo-Romantics by Allen Tanner

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Archives & Special Collections Waidner-Spahr Library Dickinson College P.O. Box 1773 Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

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[Tchelitchew and Neo-Romantics by Allen Tanner]

[Page 1]

THE LABEL = "Neo-ROMANTIC"

The group now elassified known as the "Neo-Romantics"—did not have its inception in a coherent rebellious movement of rebellion thereby resulting creating new tendencies—in Painting. They did not follow a common "idea"—prescribing which prescribes the manner—the approach—even the Subject matter—as [for instance?] the Surrealists. They were not a "reactors against Cubism" as some have alleged—nor even Dadaism—which—in truth would have been more logical—as Dadaism was the "movement" which directly preceded them.

They were simply—in the beginning—a group of young men—Thrown together—primarily through their social rapport—and the general cultural interests of the early 20's. Disaparate—in their early work—but subjected to the "senior" influence of a personality—already well formed and whose work had a strong statement. They gradually took their direction from this influence—and so became related alike in their approach. Tchelitchev had already been painting for a couple of years before they all met and had already formulated the image of what he was to do. E. Berman when he met Tchelitchev was painting

[Page 2]

The label
Neo Romantics

[Page 3]

in a rather ["Chardinesque"?] manner—and Ch Berard's work was still in an inchoate state. So the slight "unity of style" which formed & acquired—was due to the direction and impetus stronger personality—of Tchelit—had given them. Berman & Berard were the first to adopt not only Tch's choice of Subject matter but also his abstraction the use of color.

[Scribbled over:] So the trend—the unity of style the resemblance—which did perhaps set in later was not so much the result of a common revolt against former conceptions—as much as a simple need to adopt a new way of Painting—subjectively

[Scribbled over:] Finally Berman—and Berard began to show strong influence—from Tchelitchev's work both in the subject matter the restrained use of color which was almost not color. Taking this as their "point of departure" their works naturally began to look alike take on a "resemblance". [No longer scribbled over:] They came frequently to his house—to see his work & hear him expound his theories. So this of course was inevitable. And their relations towards him took on the aspect of "friendly rivals", when they were finally banded together—in Group exhibitions later on—Techlitchev was

already generally considered to be the [illegible] and <u>Chef d'Ecole</u>—as it was known that <u>his</u> was the early originating influence. Someone—probably Jacques Viot, later on—in [a group?] that was [illegible] how to designate them—for—an exhibition—suggested the term "<u>Neo</u>-Romantic"—and so it stuck.

[Page 4]

Neo Romantics revise & recopy again

[Page 5]

The Label: "Neo Romantic"
Tchelitschev The Animator—

The group—now known as the "Neo Romantics"—did not have it's inception in a coherent "rebellious" movement generating new tendencies in Painting. It's members did not follow a common originating "idea"—precribing approach manner—and subject matter—as—for instance—the Surrealists. Neither were they "reactors" against Cubism—as some have alleged—for Cubism was already fairly remote—from them—when they all began their work. Nor against "Dadaism"—which—in truth—would have been more logical—since it was the movement that directly preceded them.

They were—quite simply—in the beginning—a group of young men—barely of the same age—who were thrown together—primarily through social rapport—and the general cultural interests of the 20's. Disparate—at the outset they were subjected to the strong "senior influence—of a personality already well formed—and whose work had already made its statement—and had been [illegible] therefore as they gradually began to take their direction from this influence they became—with time—neccessarily—somewhat alike in their creative approach.

Tchelitch had already been painting

[Page 6]

a year or so—before they all met—and he had already solidly formed the image of what he was going to do. G. Berman—when he renewed his Berlin acquaintance with Tchel—in Paris—was painting in a "Chardinesque" manner. Berard's work was still in an indecisive state.

The slight "unity of style" which this group finally took on—was therefore undeniably due to the direct impetus of this stronger, and earlier personality—which they admired—and to the direction of indicated. Berman & Berard were the first—to adapt eagerly this direction—first in the choice of subject matter—but above all—the new theory of

restraint in the use and value of color. They came frequently in Tchel's house—to see his work & to hear him expound his theories. So it was inevitable.

Finally when they were lumped together—in Group Exhibitions—later on—Tchelitchev was already known & designated as the "Chef d'Ecole"—since his was the originating impetus which these younger men received. Somebody—probably Jacques Viot. later on—in discussing how to label them as "a Group"—suggested the term Neo Rom—and so—it stuck!

[Page 7]

Pavel Fyodorovitch Tchelitscheff by Allen Tanner

If I (who surely knew him well) were asked to select one word best describing the nature and character of Pavel Tchelitscheff—I would not hesitate to choose the word adjective = "compulsory". Why?? Because—as I saw him—I beheld—always—a man whose every thought and action were propelled by a the great urge—to be—to know—to do—and—to progress. For behind the noble Spirit—the vigorous mind—and the compassionate heart—there was—always—the push of this anxious energy—which gave a fierce tempo—a desperate grasp—and perpetual aspiration to the very breath and rythm of his daily existence—with it's search after knowledge and experience—and its creative work. And this energy was composed of a constantly self-recharging vitality—lending something of a Phenix-like character—to his existence. Naturally so this so greatly obligated energy drove him also to seek—and find—not only knowledge & wisdom—about life—the world—People—and the Universe—but it also led him towards penetration of that other world beyond reality—where he perceived so clearly—so poetically—and so reverently with the mystical eye of sight—the proximity and alliance of the life of the marvelous—and the miraculous.

[Page 8]

All of this coming from the inner life of a mind—with it's primary & distinguishing attributes and it's perceptive and reverent gaze—clairvoyant appraisal of the holy relationships—between the dimensions of two worlds.

He was a man who—it is true—did alternate between inordinate pride—and extreme humility. He also was besieged by a gnawing sense of insecurity—which made him always strive to be "stronger" than he really was—creating in him a constant state of psychic strain this he tired to solve by climbing always to "the top"—and seeing that he stayed there.

As He was a being of extreme and exaggerated contradictions—he could be as derogatory as he was enthusiastic—as formidable an opponent as he could be a fanatically devoted friend. He could destroy as effectively as he could build—but if one gained his love and interest he could also be as fanatically loyal

[Page 9]

When the tragic moment struck—for him to relinquish his precious life—and creative force—this moment found him an unusually progressed human being—and a greater illumined Artist.

And if I were again asked to describe the sound of an activity—which would best depict him in his daily life I would say the incessant scratch of his pen—on his drawing-paper, the sound of a frantic [illegible]—of constant practice and experimentation—which took place in the laboratory of his thought and his creative processes. And which turned out—therefore—incessantly—an overwhelming volume of results—that never failed to be exciting—new—curious—and always admirable.

[Page 10]

This has been revised & submitted. to Parker

[in box alongside:]
"Impression of
Pavel
Tschelitscheff"
by
Allen
Tanner