

Northern Exposure at BBG

Toronto, October 17: Ever wonder what it would be like to attend a wedding above the Arctic Circle? Have you ever had the opportunity to taste northern delicacies prepared by a renowned northern chef? And what about musical instruments unique to the north? Ever attend a concert where all of the instruments were creations of those native to the north? And what of the formal garb worn to celebrate special occasions in that distant land?

By the way, we are not speaking of the Canadian north. Bezpala Brown Gallery has the honour of hosting an exhibition unlike any that has been held in Canada previously. With the organizing prowess of the Trade Commissioner of the Republic of Sakha-Yakutia of the Russian Federation in Canada and the financial assistance of Silver Bear Resources Inc., we have been able to attract visual artists, costume designers and musicians widely known and celebrated by the Sakha people. And to add a Canadian flare, we have works of 17 northern Canadian artists and sculptors to help us examine the similarities and differences between the Canadian north and our northern Russian counterparts.

While the exhibition runs from October 15th to 30th, the event to attend will be held on October 22nd from 12 to 3 pm. We will feature improvisations by **Claudia & Herman Khatylaevs**, performing on more than 15 traditional Yakutian musical instruments; re-creation of a Sakha wedding to showcase celebratory Yakutian costumes designed by **Avgustina Filippova**; traditional Sakha delicacies created by celebrity chef **Innokentiy Tarbakhov** (chef to the last three Presidents of the Republic); and the visual artworks of **Mikhail Starostin** (etchings and oils), **Andrey Chikachev** (prints) and **Evgenia Arbugaeva** (photography) among other Sakha artists. We contrast these artworks with the work of 17 Inuit artists including **Annie Pootoogook** (etching and aquatint), **Shuvinai Ashoona** (etching and aquatint), **Kavavaow Mannomee** (lithograph) and **Nuna Parr** (sculpture). Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase originals and giclées from several artists. The Khatylaevs, Mr. Starostin, Ms. Filippova and Ms. Arbugaeva will be in attendance to discuss their creations.

A precursor to this event was already positively reviewed in the Globe and Mail (http://www.bezpalabrown.com/files/Northern_Russian_Artists_Make_Tracks_article.pdf) and there is now much more to see and hear.

BBG also wishes to acknowledge and thank our other sponsors to this exhibition: CERBA (Canada Eurasia Russia Business Association) and Yakutian media sponsor Zhurfix.

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Photo Caption: Equilibrist (2011) by Mikhail Starostin

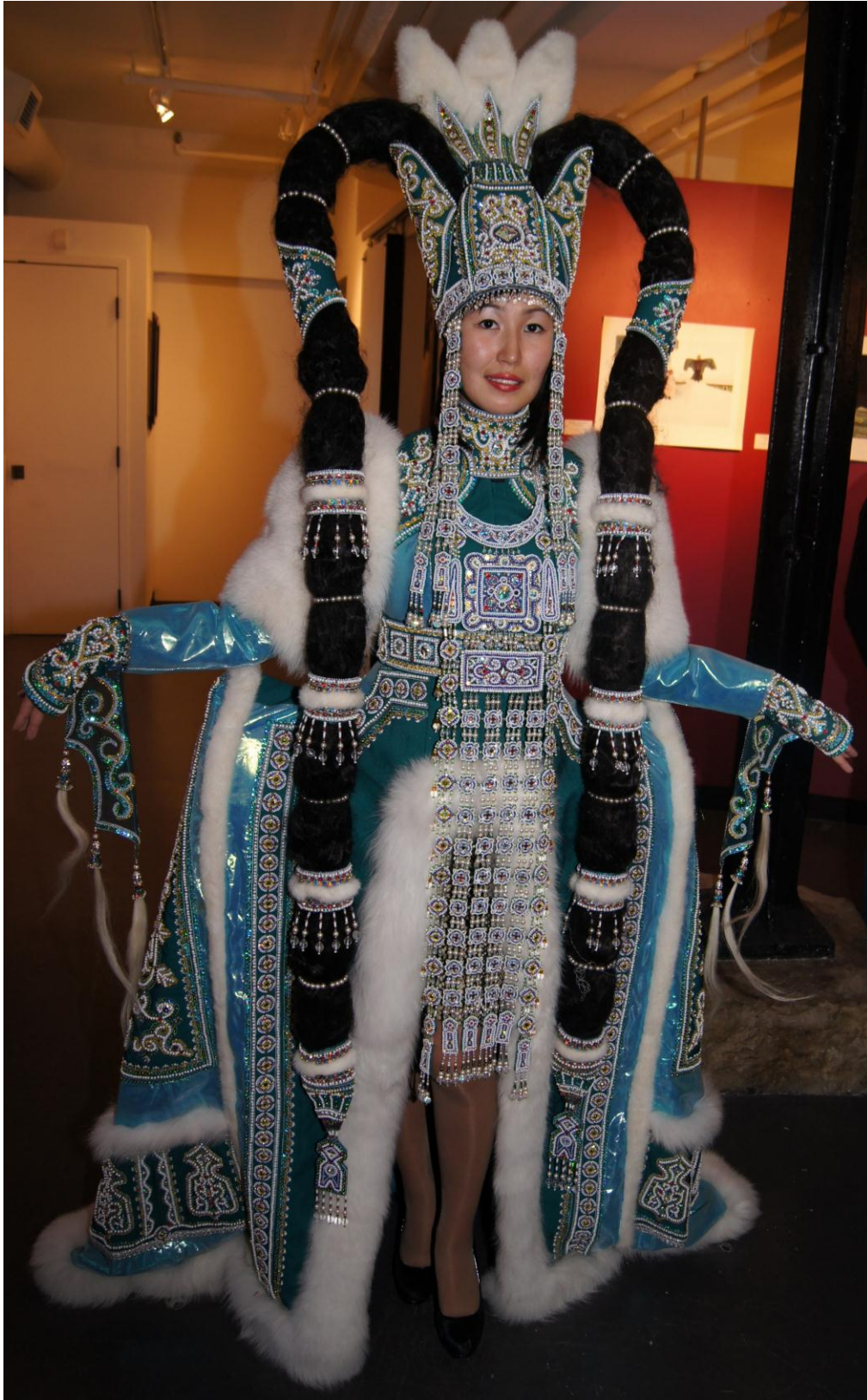


Photo Caption: Yakutian Celebratory Dress, Photo by Darrell Brown, Bezpala Brown Gallery, 2011