

## **Birds in the art of Russo-American artist Leon Shulman Gaspard (1882-1964)**

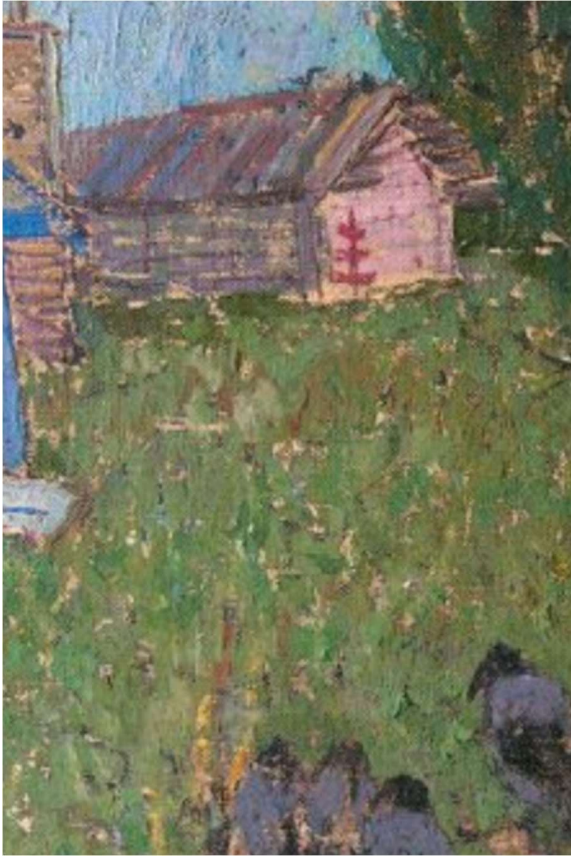
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American artist of Russian origin Leon (Lev) Maksimovich Gaspar (real name Shulman Leiba Shmuylovich) was born into a poor Jewish family on March 2, 1882 in the village of Koshevichi in the Smolensk region and died on February 21, 1964 in the town of Taos in New Mexico, USA. In 1908 he moved to France, where he met an American woman named Evelyn Gaspard. In order to marry her, Leon switched from Judaism to Orthodoxy and became Lev Maksimovich Gaspar, and for this his wife took Russian citizenship. They got married in Belarus, and in 1915 the young couple moved to the United States. Despite the fact that this famous artist spent most of his life outside Russia, the bulk of his work was devoted to Russia and depicting the life of his peoples. In 1921, together with his wife, he traveled to China and Mongolia, and in 1926 also together with her to the countries of the Middle East and, possibly, Central Asia, and also visited Berlin and Paris. An extensive literature in different languages is dedicated to this artist, which is easy to find on the Internet, but we will focus on the ornithological part of his work.

Since the paintings of this famous artist settled mainly in Western art galleries and private collections (including 16 museums in the United States), they are practically unknown to the inhabitants of his homeland. Meanwhile, birds and especially birds of prey clearly worried the artist.



Hooded Crow on battle background- Helmet & Cross. Oil, canvas, board. 6-3/4 x 8-1/4 inch (17.1 x 21.0 cm). Provenance: ownership of Author; Arrowsmith-Fenn Galleries, Santa Fe, New Mexico; Maxwell Galleries, San Francisco, California; private collection, Tucson, Arizona. From web-site: [https://www.lot-art.com/auction-lots/Leon-Gaspard-1882-1964-Crow-against-Battfield-Background-Helmut-and-Cross/68009-leon\\_gaspard\\_1882-01.11.19-heritage](https://www.lot-art.com/auction-lots/Leon-Gaspard-1882-1964-Crow-against-Battfield-Background-Helmut-and-Cross/68009-leon_gaspard_1882-01.11.19-heritage)



Landscape of Russia (1912). Canvas, oil, cardboard. Signed, dated and word "Russia/Россия" is located down on the left. 31 x 24,5 cm. From web-site: <https://www.boisgirard-antonini.com/lot/7054/1356378>





Winter visitors. From web-site: <http://jacksonholeartauktion.com/art/untitled351.html>



Partridges on snow. Oil on board. 15.5 x 11.5 inch (39.4 x 29.2 cm.). From web-site: <http://www.artnet.com/artists/leon-schulman-gaspard/partridges-in-the-snow-2rUAUgaMIGNTJf8GxIg7Q2>



Eagle on perch. Canvas, oil. 20 x 29 7/8 inch (50 x 76 cm). The Tobin Foundation for Theatre Arts. From web-site: <https://doyle.com/auctions/03pt02-modern-contemporary-and-european-american-paintings/catalogue/251-leon-schulman>





Falcon (in reality this is hard identifying representative of Accipitridae family). 7 x 7 inch (17.78 x 17.78 cm), in frame. From web-site: <https://www.bidsquare.com/online-auctions/alex-cooper/leon-schulman-gaspard-falcon-oil-on-board-1845754>



An eagle and pigeons. 23 3/4 x 24 inch (58.42 x 60.96 cm). Provenance: Kennedy Galleries, Inc., New York, New York Maxwell Galleries, San Francisco, California, Fenn Galleries, Ltd., Santa Fe, New Mexico Santa Fe East Gallery, New Mexico, private collection, New Mexico.

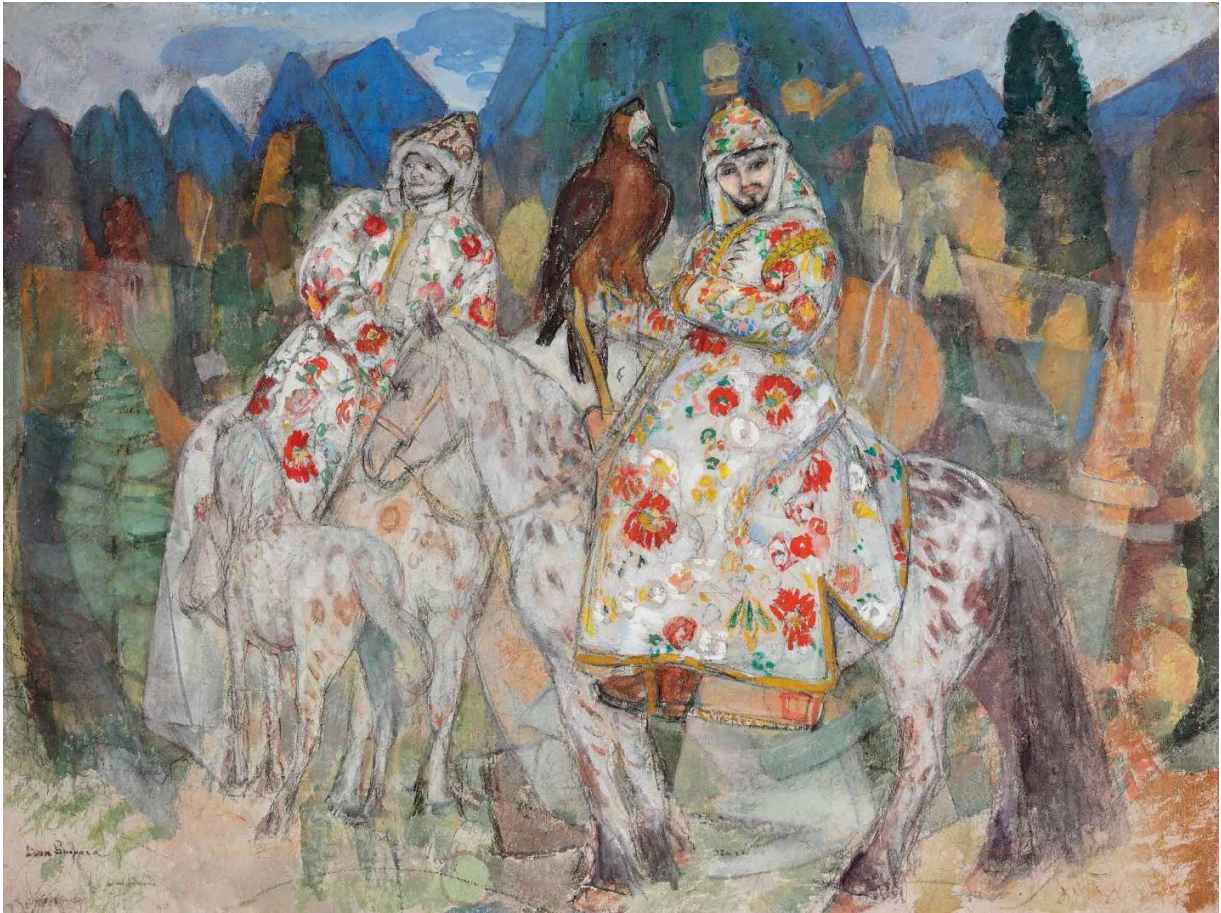




The king of skies. Oil, canvas, board. 46 x 38 cm. (18.1 x 15 inches). From web-site: <http://www.artnet.com/artists/leon-schulman-gaspard/king-of-the-skies-PqQmtvP-HgwEztgehH9nwg2>



The hooded eagle, approximately 1939. Oil on canvas. 12 x 11 1/4 inches (30.48 x 27.94 cm). Provenance: farmstead of artist together with Fenn Gallery in Santa Fe in New Mexico. Acquired by current owner from the previous one in 1988. This work is a part of preparation for opera «Prince Igor» in the collection of Frye Art Museum in Seattle. This painting is accompanied by the book «Leon Gaspard» by Frank Waters (Waters, 1981). From the catalogue «Leslie Hindman Auctioneers», c.12.



Falconer (berkutchi). Gouash, oil and pencil on paper. 30 x 40 inches (76.2 x 101.6 cm).  
Provenance: estate of Artist, Dubose Gallery, Houston, Texas. Mongerson Gallery, Ltd.,  
Chicago, Illinois. Acquired by current owner from the previous one. From web-site:  
[https://www.christies.com/lotfinder/Lot/leon-shulman-gaspard-1882-1964-falconer-5379511-  
details.aspx](https://www.christies.com/lotfinder/Lot/leon-shulman-gaspard-1882-1964-falconer-5379511-details.aspx)





Left. Falconry in Central Asia. 1936. From web-site: <https://app.cuseum.com/art/leon-gaspard-falconry-in-central-asia-1936>

Right. Berkutchi. Painting for opera of composer A.P.Borodin «Prince Igor». Frye Art Museum, Seattle, WA и Santa Fe, New Mexico. From web-site: <https://stephenbodio.com/tag/berkutchi/>



Festival of eagles. Mixed colours, board. 50.75 x 47.76 inches (128.9 x 121.3 cm). From website: <http://www.artnet.com/artists/leon-schulman-gaspard/festival-of-the-eagles-M56JzQNX5kfGUvwWJgXHw2>



From left. Winter landscape. Oil on canvas. From web-site:

<https://www.popscreen.com/prod/MTU5NDI2Mjg1/-Russian-Oil-Painting-Winter-Landscape-Signed-Leon-Gaspard>

From right. Winter pines. Oil on panel. 9 x 5.75 inches (22.9 x 14.6 cm). From web-site:

[http://www.artnet.com/artists/leon-schulman-gaspard/winter-pines-HDjX8UC7jQFQsvSn8\\_saqg2](http://www.artnet.com/artists/leon-schulman-gaspard/winter-pines-HDjX8UC7jQFQsvSn8_saqg2)

The art of this man includes many paintings with people of different indigenous peoples, both the European and the Asian part of Russia in bright national clothes, North America, winter landscapes, sketches of rural life (often with musicians), horses. Chess and horse riding were Leon's favorite hobbies.



Memorial Plate on estate of Leon Gaspard. From web-site:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leon\\_Gaspard\\_House#/media/File:Leon\\_Gaspard\\_House\\_1.JPG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leon_Gaspard_House#/media/File:Leon_Gaspard_House_1.JPG)



Grave of Leon Maximovich Gaspard (1882-1964). From web-site:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/128046070/leon-maximovich-gaspard>

### **Literature**

Waters F. 1981. Leon Gaspard / with a foreword by Forrest Fenn: [Catalogue]. Fenn Galleries, Santa Fe. Flagstaff (Arizona): Northland Press.

### **Links in the Internet**

<https://artz.ru/authors/1805384413/1804783340.html>

<http://mishpoha.org/n29/29a14.php>

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Published originally in the Russian Journal of Ornithology (2020), Vol.29, Express-issue 1976: 4349-4354.