

## ANCIENT SPIRITS' WHISPER

Each of his art work is a unique and complete vision. They seem so perfect and refined to the smallest detail it is hard to accept they are made of hard metal.

Proportions, spirituality, finest shapes of a human body- all come from the artist's deep understanding of the human nature. The features are so true and realistic as if coming directly from the Nature.

Not surprisingly, almost all the works by sculptor Dashi Namdakov were sold out within days after his exhibition opening last July. Now 33-year-old, this young Master comes from Russian Siberia, the Land of Buryat Mongols.



*Princess*

Last year he presented his first exhibition in Moscow, and soon after his works were highly praised at the Art Expo in New York. Many of his works already went to private collectors from all over the world.

"All my works are rooted in my childhood," says the sculptor. He was born in a small Siberian village lost amidst forests on the Russian Mongolian border. Only about 60 families live in the village and there is no school or post office.



As a child Dashi grew in the wilderness of Siberian taiga forest, surrounded by the traditional culture of Buryats. His father was a skilled craftsman able to do blacksmithing and jewelry, wood carving and even making carpets.

All his eight children inherited the talent of their father, but only Dashi has become a professional artist. At age of seven Dashi was send to a boarding school where he was the only Buryat. "It was a hard experience," says the artist. Life in an hostile and alien environment only stressed his passion for the culture of his own people.

*A shaman*

He dreamt of going after school to a prestigious art college in Moscow, but there was no way for a provincial boy, even if talented, to enter reputed art schools without recommendations. After two times failure he gave up, and went instead to the Arts College of Siberia from which he graduated with honors completing a four years program within two.



Dashi feels at ease in many forms of art doing graphics, painting, sculpture. But he likes most to work with metals like bronze,- "the most visually expressive" material.



*A warrior*

"Each thing or idea has its own inner logic which dictates the form of expression. I think that by understanding and following this logic one can create the wholeness out of details," says the sculptor. That is why almost all his works are full of life, harmony and spontaneity of the real life.

Even the works representing the power and might like that of a warrior or shaman betray the sign of inner weakness. In Asian arts the perfection of forms holds a special meaning as it reveals and reflects the inner harmony.

Blacksmiths who also often served as jewelers were called "people with god blessed mind" for their skills of creating perfectly shaped but yet, functional items and utensils. They commanded such a respect that they enjoyed a very special privilege of not standing up when facing a noble, for their skills were valued more than that of any noble.



*A horse rider*

This understanding of the inner beauty of things and the talent are the gifts Dashi Namdakov inherited from his ancestors to express the spirits of his land and forefathers.