

Iguana by Mihail Chemiakin

Serigraph On Canvas - Main Subject: Abstract





**Item Number**  
7246765009

**Retail Value**  
\$4,000

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**Dimensions (As Shown)**  
36W x 36H Inches  
91.44W x 91.44H cm

**Medium**  
Serigraph On Canvas

**Edition**  
- Limited Edition of 50  
- Hand-Signed   
- Numbered 

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**About Mihail Chemiakin**

Mihail Chemiakin was born in Moscow in 1943, grew up in occupied East Germany, and returned to Russia in 1957 where he was

admitted to the Special High School of the Repin Academy of Art in Leningrad. He was expelled from art school for failing to conform to Socialist Realist norms, and from 1959-1971 worked as a laborer in various capacities. He was subjected to compulsory treatment at a mental institution, which was a standard way of dealing with ideological dissidents at that time. For five years he worked on the maintenance crew of the Hermitage Museum. In 1967, the artist founded the St. Petersburg Group and developed the philosophy of Metaphysical Synthesism, dedicated to the creation of a new form of icon painting based on the study of religious art of all ages and peoples.

In 1971 Chemiakin was forced out of the USSR by the Soviet authorities. He settled first in France, then moved to New York City in 1981. While in Paris he edited and published Apollon-77, an almanach of post-Stalinist art, poetry and photography in which many of the non-conformists were first published. Chemiakin also recorded and published the first disks of gypsy singers Vladimir Poliakov and Aliocha Dmitrievich, both of whom lived in Paris. He worked for several years with Russian bard Vladimir Vysotsky, systematically recording his songs for what became a seven-record set of Vysotsky's music. Chemiakin continues to publish books and music by under-recognized artists under the aegis of the Apollon Art Research Foundation.

In 1989, the return of Chemiakin's work to post-Communist Russia began with the first exhibition of his work there since his exile. Subsequently, he continued to show his work in Russia and has installed four monuments in St. Petersburg, to Peter the Great, to the Victims of Political Repressions, to the Architects and Builders of St. Petersburg, and to assassinated deputy mayor M. Manevich. Chemiakin's Cybele: Goddess of Fertility stands in New York's SoHo. A variation on the monument to Peter the Great is on permanent display in Normandy. In 1998 Chemiakin's Monument to Giacomo Casanova was installed in Venice in honor of the bicentenary of Casanova's death. Dialogue between Plato and Socrates, a memorial to Professor Harold Yuker, is installed at Hofstra University in New York; a monument to actor Savely Kramarov stands in San Francisco. Chemiakin's monument to Children - Victims of the Sins of Adults, commissioned by the city of Moscow, stands in Bolotnaya Square in the city's historic center.

The research begun in the 1960s into the art of all ages and peoples has developed into a collection of millions of images organized into technical, historical and philosophical categories which has earned the artist five Honorary Doctorates and is the basis for his Institute of the Philosophy and Psychology of Art.

Chemiakin's first theatrical work was at the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in St. Petersburg (then Leningrad) in 1967. He designed a production of Shostakovich's opera-bouffe The Nose which was directed by Fialkovsky. As everyone involved knew in advance, the production was closed down by the authorities immediately after the premiere. Chemiakin's first ballet production, The Nutcracker, premiered directly across Theater Square from the Conservatory, 34 years later.

Chemiakin's new staging of Tchaikovsky's ballet, the Nutcracker, premiered at St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theater on February 12, 2001 to enthusiastic reviews by audience and critics alike. The production was the highlight of the inaugural International Ballet Festival slated to be an annual event in St. Petersburg. The new ballet is much closer in spirit to the original tale by E.T.A. Hoffmann and is a departure from the children's version with which we are all familiar.

## Serigraph On Canvas

Screen printing or Serigraphy is a printing technique that uses a woven mesh to support an ink blocking stencil. The attached stencil forms open areas of mesh that transfer ink as a sharp-edged image onto a substrate. A roller or squeegee is moved across the screen stencil forcing or pumping ink past the threads of the woven mesh in the open areas.

Credit is generally given to the artist Andy Warhol for popularizing screen printing identified as serigraphy, in the United States. Warhol is particularly identified with his 1962 depiction of actress Marilyn Monroe screen printed in garish colors.

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