

# Cultural life of My City



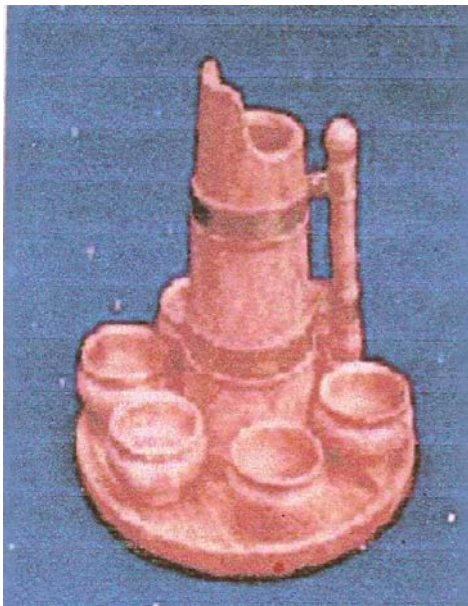
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It is nice to have a chance to relax: to go to the theatre, to the cinema, but the greatest pleasure for me is to visit museums and exhibitions.

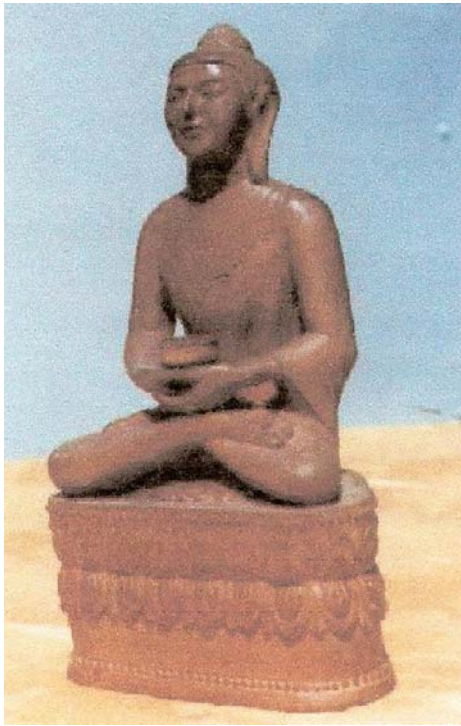
There are many talented artists and painters in Khalmykia. Expositions are often held in pavilions and salons.

I have just visited the exhibitions of Yevgeny Khakhulin. He is a painter and a great master of applied arts.

I enjoyed the exhibitions very much. My admiration for his skill was boundless. Most of his works are derived from Kalmyk folk culture and traditions. His remarkable works of art give a vivid idea of history, culture and traditions of Kalmyk people. His works are carved out of elm.



On this photo you can see a donjik (vessel) and pialas (handless cups). In old times Kalmyk people kept koumiss in such vessel. Have you heard anything about koumiss? Koumiss is a fermented mare`s milk. It possesses medicinal remedy and it is very useful for health. It is used for treating a number of illnesses. Pialas (cups) are used for Kalmyk tea. Kalmyk tea is called djomba. It is a very tasty drink.



Here is a statue of Buddha. I must say that Kalmykia is the only place in Europe where Buddhism is professed.

Buddha is the title used for referring to Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism. Kalmyk people worship him.

Buddha is an incarnation of kindness, respect, love, sacrifice. He is wise, he calls to peace, love and pray. Having bent over the statue I whispered a pray. I asked for health s, to people for centuries, love to each other peace and consent.



On this photo you can see a vase made in the shape of a tulip. When I saw it for the first time I was so stuck and surprised that I looked at it for a long time and could not admire it. The tulip is the symbol of my Republic. Spring is considered to be the best season in Kalmykia, because its wide steppes are covered with multy-coloured carpet of blossoming tulip.





This is prayer-wheel. It is a revolving cylinder containing prayers. Prayer wheels are placed in front of khuruls (Buddhist churches). One must go round revolving these wheels before entering the Temple. It is considered that a person who revolves the prayer-wheels put the prayers.

Reyonold wrote:»the real character of a person is found out by his amusements:Yevgeny Dmitrievich is a champion of Kalmykia as a runner, he is found of fishing and gathering mushrooms. Every day in any seasons one can see him running in the park. Experts say about him: «Even the tree sings in his hands». Any works by Yevgeny Khakhulin keeps the warmth of his hands.



Yevgeny Khakhulin and his family in Kalmyk national costumes.