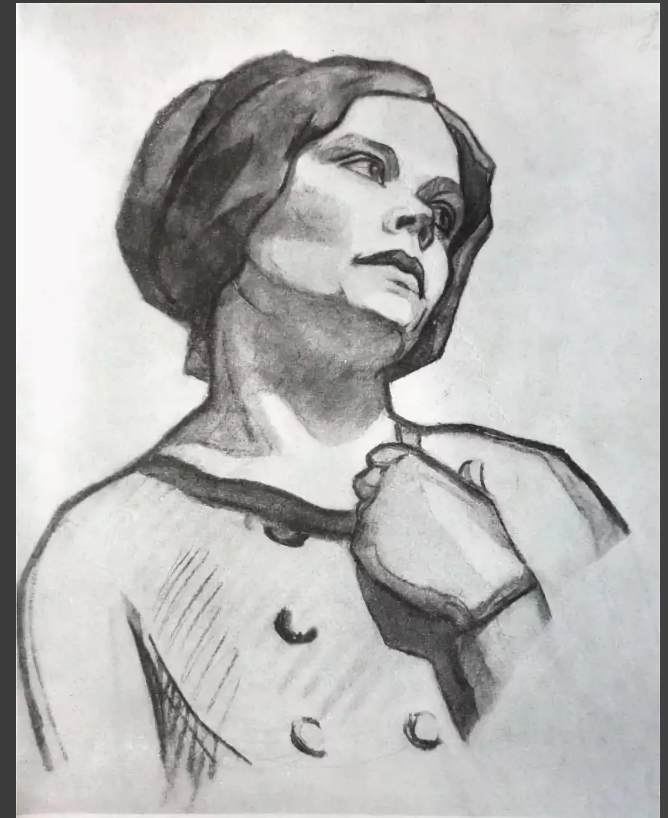


VERA MUKHINA

The Soviet sculptor

Biography

- Mukhina was born in Riga, Russian Empire into a wealthy merchant family.
- She lived at Turgeneva st. 23/25, where a memorial plaque has now been placed.
- Mukhina died in Moscow on 6 October 1953 of angina. She is buried in Novodevichy Cemetery, Moscow.



Her education

- ◉ Later she moved to Moscow, where she studied at several private art schools, including those of Konstantin Yuon and Ilya Mashkov.
- ◉ In 1912 she traveled to Paris, where she attended the Académie de la Grande Chaumière and took lessons from Emile-Antoine Bourdelle, then continued on to Italy to explore the painting and sculpture of the Renaissance period.



Her work experience

- ◉ In the 1920s Mukhina rose to become one of the Soviet Union's most prominent sculptors, and although she continued to produce Cubist sculpture as late as 1922, she became a leading figure of Socialist realism, both in style and ideology.
- ◉ She also experimented with glass, producing glass figural busts. Seeking to enrich the artistic vocabulary of Soviet art, Mukhina often presented her theories on sculpture, experimented with new materials, and developed a technique of polychromatic sculpture. She decorated exhibitions, made industrial drawings, and designed clothes, textiles, porcelain and theatrical costumes for the Vakhtangov Theater in Moscow.

Her art

- She taught at the state school, [Vkhutemas](#), in 1926–1927, and came to international attention with the 1937 [Worker and Kolkhoz Woman](#). Her studio's work on official monuments and architectural sculpture on state commissions continued through her death.



Her achievements



- From 1941 to 1952, Mukhina won the Stalin Prize five times, and she was named People's Artist of the USSR in 1943.
- Because of Mukhina's influence as a great Soviet artist, and as a former student of the Latvian sculptor Kārlis Zāle, she persuaded Soviet officials in the late 1940s that the Freedom Monument in Riga was of great artistic importance.
- Due to her efforts, the monument was not demolished to make way for a statue of Joseph Stalin.

Her other work

- ◉ *Peasant Woman* (1927), freestanding bronze, now in the [Tretyakov Gallery](#) in Moscow
- Fertility* (1934), and *Bread* (1939), both now in Friendship Park, Moscow
- ◉ three cornice figures on the pediment of the Winter Theater in [Sochi](#), 1937
- ◉ the mourning mother figure in the monumental group *We Demand Peace* (1950–1951). Mukhina served as coordinator of other sculptors for this project.
- ◉ [Maxim Gorky](#) Monument (1952) in [Nizhny Novgorod](#)
- ◉ the statue of [Tchaikovsky](#) in front of the [Moscow Conservatory](#)
- ◉ the finial figure of *Mir* ("Peace"), with [armillary sphere](#) and dove (1954), for the [Volgograd](#) Planetarium

Honors and legacy

- ◉ [Stalin Prizes](#) (1941, 1942, 1943, 1946, 1951)
- ◉ [Order of the Red Banner of Labour](#) (1938)
- ◉ [Order of the Badge of Honour](#) (1945)
- ◉ [Order "Citizenship Award"](#) (Bulgaria)
- ◉ Vera Mukhina Street in the town [Klin](#), [Moscow Oblast](#).
- ◉ The [Museum of Vera Mukhina](#) dedicated to the sculptor's adolescence and work was established in [Feodosiya](#), [Crimea](#), [Ukraine](#) in 1985.

