

# THE SOCIETY TO PRESERVE THE MILLVALE MURALS OF MAXO VANKA

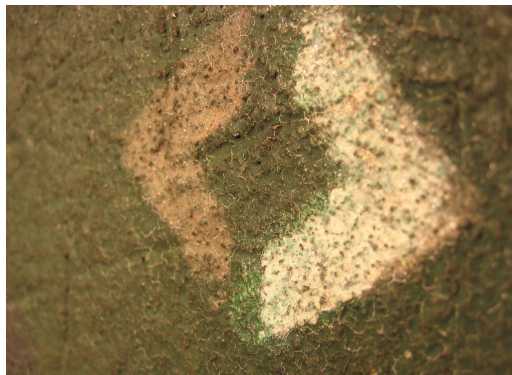
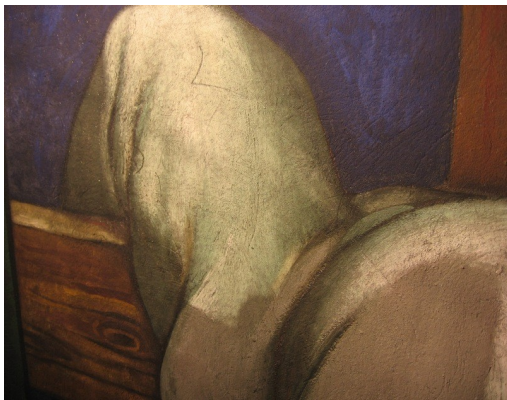
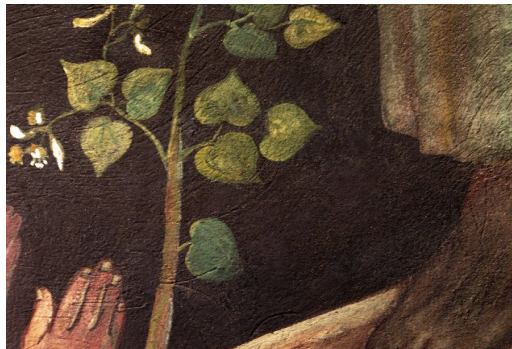
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## PHASE I: Before and After Images — Mati 1941

Before (left column) and after (right column) detail images of the conservator's work on the mural panel known as *Mati 1941 — Mother Croatia Tied to a Cross* — clearly demonstrate the challenge and potential of the cleaning and restoration process. Located on the weather-side of the church, *Mati 1941* shows evidence of water damage as well as the accumulation of dirt. Conservators must stabilize an area before cleaning and restabilize it after before any repair or retouching of the loss created by salts leaching into the panels can be completed.

*Photo Credits: Patricia Buss and Sam Lusi.*



## IN TRIBUTE

**Edward Sambol.** A life-long parishioner, the organist at St. Nicholas from 1966 to 2001 and a founding member of SPMMMV, Mr. Sambol was a former Duquesne Tamburitzan and Javor choir director and taught orchestration for 33 years with the Pittsburgh Public Schools. In 1981, he contributed to the original production of the play, *Gift to America*; the story of the creation of the murals. He worked tirelessly to keep Croatian Catholic heritage alive at St. Nicholas.

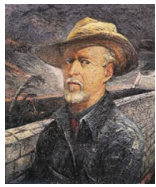
**Russell Gibbons** passed away on September 24, 2010. Retired from a long career in journalism and with the United Steel Workers Union, he started volunteering docent on a weekly basis in May although he had *continued on next page...*

## Vanka Exhibition at PCA

Between September 10th and November 7th, the exhibition, *Paintings and Works on Paper, Maxo Vanka* drew more than 2,200 visitors to the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts. Executive director, Laura Domencic reports that attendance far exceeded that of the same time last year.

The show closed on Nov. 7th with the launch of Hi-Rez; a nomadic, site-specific, hi-impact, artist residency program. The performance is an artistic response to Vanka's murals. A repeat performance was held on November 14th at St. Nicholas Church.

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*The official registration and financial information of The Society to Preserve the Millvale Murals of Maxo Vanka may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling toll free, within PA, 1.800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Contributions to SPMMMV a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code are deductible as allowed by law.*

**Docent Tour Hours at St. Nicholas**

Saturday and Sunday  
 1 pm—4pm

**A Tour to Remember**

Give family and friends or out-of-town guests a Pittsburgh experience they'll always remember. If requested in advance, hosts may provide pre- or post-tour refreshments at the Church. Parking is available.

For weekday tours and special arrangements, contact Mary Petrich at 412-681-0905 or Diane Novosel at 724-845-2907.

**Please note that weekend masses at St. Nicholas are at 6:00 PM on Saturday and 12 Noon on Sunday.**

**Tribute continued...** long promoted the importance of the murals for labor and immigrant history. In 2009, Russell presented Diane Novosel with the John Brennan Award from the PA Labor History Society.

Ed and Russell are dearly missed and fondly remembered by everyone at St. Nicholas and SPMMMV.

**CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

As of October 31st, the Campaign has raised more than \$235,000 — including the success of a \$50,000 matching grant from a local foundation — to fund Phase I of the project. This phase will complete work on seven of the 22 murals and a portion of the lighting.

Phase II of the Campaign includes the cleaning and restoration of the remaining 15 murals and the completion of the lighting. The fund-raising goal is \$350,000. Restoration will proceed as funding is secured.

Donors may sponsor, in full or in part, the conservation

of a single panel or make a general gift to the project.

For more information, please contact project manager, William Lafe at 412-871-0399 or by email: williamlafe@gmail.com.

**PittsburghGives to Vanka!**

SPMMMV received nearly \$2,000 in individual donations and matching funds as part of the Pittsburgh Gives Day of Giving on October 13th.

Visit and share our profile: www.pittsburghgives.org.

**Thank you!**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Be a Docent!**

SPMMMV's docents make regular tour hours possible. If you or someone you know is interested in helping to increase public access and awareness about the murals by serving as a docent, please contact Mary Petrich at 412-681-0905. Training is provided. Volunteers may tailor their hours to best fit their schedule.

**Gift to America — May 2011**

Volunteers are needed to assist with the staging of **Gift to America**; the play written by Dr. David Demarest and premiered in 1981 about the creation of the murals. SPMMMV is preparing for one benefit performance and three general admission evenings.

**Do you have a skill to donate?** Many hands are welcome with a special request for experience with event planning, theatre production, public relations and marketing and graphic design.

To volunteer or for more information: 724-845-2907.

**Make a one-time or recurring pledge online. Hit the Donate Now button on our website: www.vankamurals.org.**