

M. K. ČIURLIONIS
NATIONAL
MUSEUM OF ART

1921 – 2010



1921–1930

1921

On 14 December 1921 the M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery Act was announced.

1922

In accordance with this act, on 27 February the Ministry of Education contacted Sofija Čiurlionienė and purchased all the M. K. Čiurlionis works owned by her (193 objects: 148 paintings and 35 works of graphic art for 65 000 German gold marks).

The first meeting of the board of M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery took place on 24 August.

On 14 September in the second meeting the board of the gallery elected artist Ignas Šlapelis first director of M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery.

1923

On 14 May Ignas Šlapelis resigned from the post of the director of M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery. Artist Kajetonas Sklėrius was elected the new director.

1924

On 15 March the Minister of Education appointed Paulius Galaunė as new director of M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery (held office till 29/3/1949).

On 28 June the Minister of Education, priest Mykolas Krupavičius, confirmed the project of “Art School Pavilion – The Temporary Building of Čiurlionis Gallery” carried out by Vladimiras Dubeneckis.

The construction of the temporary building of M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery was started on 25 July.

Sixteen of M. K. Čiurlionis' works were restored in the workshop of Riga City Museum.

1925

On 14 March composer Viktoras Kuprevičius started working as the secretary of the gallery. At that time the gallery employed four people: director, secretary, janitor-courier and stoker.

In the spring of 1925 the Society of Lithuanian Art Creators was invited to participate in *The 2nd International Exhibition of Decorative Art* in Monza, Italy. It was decided to represent

Lithuania with the old folk art. On behalf of M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery, the organization of the exhibition was entrusted to artist Adomas Varnas. The best exhibits from the collections of Čiurlionis Gallery were selected. They included iron tops of crosses, wood carvings, folk statuettes, fabrics (belt sashes, aprons) as well as enlarged photographs of roof-poles and *koplytstulpiai* (road poles with statuettes of saints), Vincas Svirskis' crosses made by Varnas himself. The Lithuanian exhibition received a lot of interest.

On 24–29 September the temporary M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery held the exhibition of M. K. Čiurlionis works dedicated to his 50th birthday anniversary. It received 1044 visitors.

On 13 December M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery opened a permanent display for the public.

The property of the gallery consisted of 4 258 exhibits.

1926

On 26 August the gallery opened *The exhibition of the Photographs of Lithuanian Crosses*. Alongside the exhibition the gallery published the book *Lithuanian Crosses* (Čiurlionis Gallery publication No.1).

The construction of the temporary building of M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery was completed on 7 October.

The display of the Department of the Ancient Painting, Culture and Household Items was opened on 21 October.

The Catalogue of the Ancient Painting was published (M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery publication No. 2).

An exhibition of Latvian painting on porcelain was held. The gallery acquired Romans Suta's decorative plate *Wedding*.

1927

On 19 April the display of graphic art and Lithuanian folk engravings was opened.

On 6–9 June the gallery participated in the international exhibition of carpets in *Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Pavillon de Marsan, Palais du Louvre* in Paris where it exhibited folk textile.

On 10 December the exposition of the Folk Art Department was opened.

The gallery purchased from Kazys Grinius a collection of valuable Lithuanian aprons and other elements of national clothing consisting of 355 items (it cost 15 000 Lt).

400 photographs of crosses were purchased from artist Adomas Varnas.

M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery published the manual *Start Collecting Folk Art* written by Paulius Galaunė (M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery publication No. 4).

The gallery published *The Catalogue of M. K. Čiurlionis Works* compiled by Paulius Galaunė (M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery publication No. 5).

The gallery published *The Catalogue of Lithuanian Folk Engravings* (M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery publication No. 3).

The gallery published *The Cycle of Twelve Paintings by M. K. Čiurlionis. The Zodiac* (M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery publication No.6).

The gallery organized the first expedition to collect folk art. Artist Vytautas Bičiūnas headed the group of three.

In December the gallery purchased the largest treasure in Lithuania. It was found in Nasvyčiai village and consisted of gold coins and articles made from precious metals (228 items).

1928

On 25–26 March M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery held *The Exhibition of the Stamps of the Independent Lithuania Issued during the First Decade of Independence*. It received 1836 visitors.

On 14 October–10 November *The Exhibition of Lithuanian Ex-libris* was held in the gallery. It was visited by 367 people.

On 11–24 November the gallery organized *The Exhibition of Russian Ex-libris*. It received 94 visitors.

From 25 November to 21 April 1929 the gallery hosted the exhibition of Jan Damel's Siberian drawings which attracted 247 visitors.

1929

On 21 April–13 June the gallery held *The Exhibition of the 18th–19th Centuries Lithuanian Engraved Images of Saints*. 91 people

visited the exhibition.

On 14 June–15 July the gallery organized the exhibition of Kazys Šimonis works of graphic art. It received 40 visitors.

1930

On 28 February Vytautas the Great Committee announced the decision to build a museum in Kaunas as a memorial monument to Vytautas the Great.

On 16–31 March together with the Lithuanian-French Society and the Association of French Artistic Expansion and Exchange (*L'Association Française d'expansion et d'échanges artistiques*) M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery organized the exhibition of French graphic and book art, which was held in the hall of the Lithuanian-French Society. After the exhibition the gallery acquired the lithographs of Eugène Carrière and Paul Cézanne as well as an etching by Théophile-Alexandre Steinlen.

The gallery organized the second expedition to collect folk art. The group was led by artist Antanas Tamošaitis.

On 23 November the ceremony of laying the cornerstone for Vytautas the Great Museum was held.

The fundamental work by Paulius Galaunė called *Lithuanian Folk Art. The Principles of the Development of Its Artistic Forms* was published.



1931–1940

1931

From January to December, Lithuanian folk art exhibition compiled from the collections of M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery visited three Scandinavian states: Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

The exhibitions were held at *Nordiska Museet* in Stockholm, *Kunstindustrimuseet* in Oslo and *Kunstindustrimuseum* in Copenhagen. Separate catalogues were published in each place.

M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery published the record of its activities over a five-year period (M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery publication No. 7).

1932

From 30 October to 4 December, the first exhibition of *Ars* group was held. Nine artists participated in it: Adomas Galdikas, Antanas Gudaitis, Vytautas Kazimieras Jonynas, Telesforas Kulakauskas, Juozas Mikėnas, Antanas Samuolis, Jonas Steponavičius, Viktoras Vizgirda and Mstislavas Dobužinskis.

King Gustaf V of Sweden decorated Paulius Galaunė with the Second Degree of the Order of Vasa for his merits in organizing exhibitions of Lithuanian folk art in Scandinavia.

1933

In the First Convention of Lithuanian Museologists held in Šiauliai the reports were read by M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery Director Paulius Galaunė, as well as Eduardas Volteris, Ignas Končius, Vincas Ruzgas and Karolis Mekas from Kaunas. The convention approved of Peliksas Bugailiškis' proposal and decided to issue a publication on museology *Gimtasis kraštas (Native Land)*, where such topics as the general problems of the work in museums and scientific activities were discussed. It also included investigations of Lithuanian ethnographers.

From the first exhibition of *Ars* group the gallery purchased the following works: *Portrait* by Antanas Samuolis, *Madonna* by Telesforas Kulakauskas, *Portrait* by Antanas Gudaitis, *Portrait* by Viktoras Vizgirda and *Portrait of Viktoras Vizgirda* by Juozas Mikėnas.

1934

On 7–28 April the great hall of the War Museum in the Palace of Vytautas the Great Museum housed *Swedish Folk Art Exhibition*. The organisers: Stockholm Nordic Museum, the government of Lithuania, Swedish-Lithuanian Society.

From 24 November to 9 December Vytautas the Great Museum held *The Exhibition of Swedish Applied Art in Kaunas*.

1935

On 6–31 January M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery and Kaunas City Museum participated in the Exhibition of Contemporary European Graphic Art at *Vychodoslovenske Muzeum* in Košice (Slovakia).

From 12 August to 12 September, Vytautas the Great Museum held the Retrospective Exhibition of Lithuanian Art organized on the occasion of World Lithuanian Congress.

On 22–30 September the museum housed the exhibition of Lithuania Minor.

From 15 December to 3 February 1936, the museum organized the *First Autumn Art Exhibition*. Organisers: Lithuanian Artists' Association.

From 13 December to 13 January 1936, the museum held the *USSR Exhibition of Books, Magazines and Posters*.

M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery participated in the *Exhibition of the Folk Art of the Baltic States* at the Ethnographic Museum of the Trocadéro in Paris.

1936

The retrospective exhibition of Antanas Žmuidzinaičius works was arranged at Vytautas the Great Museum.

From 19 January to 23 February, the posthumous exhibition of Kajetonas Sklėrius-Šklėrys works was held.

From 8 February to 8 March, Vytautas the Great Museum held *The Exhibition of the Contemporary Belgian Art*. Organisers: the Belgian-Lithuanian Association. On the occasion of this exhibition, 30 works were donated to the museum and some were purchased. With all these works the museum intended to have a department for Belgian art.

From 27 February to 4 March, Vytautas the Great Museum held the exhibition of photographs of Lithuanian surveyors and culture technicians which embraced the photographs of crosses, *koplytstulpiai* (road poles with statuettes of saints) and chapels. They were supposed to encourage the public to preserve folk art and take inventory. Organisers: the Chapter of Photographers in the Union of Lithuanian Surveyors and Culture Technicians.

From 22 March to 22 May, M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery held the exhibition of M. K. Čiurlionis paintings for the 25th anniversary of his death. (Alongside the exhibition the gallery published its publication No. 8)

From 6 June to 15 July, the Summer Art Exhibition was held at Vytautas the Great Museum. Organisers: Lithuanian Artists' Association

On 20 October the transfer of M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery's property to the building of Vytautas the Great Museum was started.

On 22 October the Act of Vytautas the Great Museum was announced. It regulated the activities of two independent

Museums: Vytautas the Great Museum of Culture and the War Museum. In accordance with the act, Vytautas the Great Museum of Culture (VGMC) Council was created.

After merging Čiurlionis Gallery, State and Kaunas City Museum into the VGMC, the collections of this museum were augmented by Biržai Tyszkiewicz collection of fine and applied art, the artistic legacy of Plungė Counts Oginski, Šančiai treasure and Princess Marija Magdalena Zavišaitė-Radvilienė art collection (total: 21 222 items).

1937

On 11 January, in accordance with Vytautas the Great Museum Act, VGMC took over the functions and material of the State Archeological Commission. Together with it, the museum received Dr. Antanas Račkus' rich collection of numismatics, Lituaniatics and emigration (approximately 50 000 exhibits).

From 28 February to 14 March, the exhibition of the swiss book was held at VGMC. Organisers: Swiss Consulate in Kaunas.

From 20 March to 4 April, VGMC organized the exhibition of Lithuanian Folk Art in Riga (Rīgas pilsētas mākslas muzejs).

On April 4–25 VGMC held estonian art exhibition in Kaunas.

On 10-25 April VGMC organized Lithuanian art exhibition in Tallinn in the Art Exhibition Hall (at Kunstihoone).

From 21 May–26 June, the exhibition *Napoleon in Lithuania. 1812–1937* was held at VGMC. It was dedicated to Napoleon's march through Lithuania. Organisers: the Lithuanian-French

Society.

On 31 July VGMC statute was announced.

From 18 November to 5 December, latvian art exhibition was held at VGMC.

From 19 December to 16 January 1938 VGMC held the 3rd autumn art exhibition.

Artist Antanas Žmuidzinaičius collection of belt sashes was purchased (146 items).

The catalogue of M. K. Čiurlionis works was published (ed. Paulius Galaunė, Vytautas Kairiūkštis and Viktoras Kuprevičius).

1938

In February the exhibition of contemporary italian landscape *Sunny Italy* was opened.

On 23–28 February Adomas Varnas 30th celebratory exhibition was held.

From 26 to 30 April, ethnographic and photo exhibition was organized. The organisers of the ethnographic part: the Ethnographic Department of VGMC.

On 7-29 May hungarian art exhibition was held. Four paintings were acquired.

On 7-17 June USSR exhibition of photography was held. Organisers: Lithuanian Society for Raising Awareness of USSR Culture.

From 4 November to 23 January 23 1939, 4th autumn art exhibition dedicated to 20th anniversary of Lithuania's independence was held. Organisers: Lithuanian Artists' Association. A study *M. K. Čiurlionis* (ed. Paulius Galaunė) was published (Publication No. 9).

1939

On 4–19 February the exhibition of the projects of Panevėžys Museum building was held.

On 4–19 February the museum organized french modern art exhibition. Organisers: French Association for Artistic Action and Lithuanian Artists' Association. After the exhibition two paintings as well as a splendid collection of drawings and graphic art was purchased. The collection included the works of such famous artists as Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Marcel Gromaire, Raoul Dufy.

From 24 April to 7 May, italian graphic art exhibition was organized. Organisers: Lithuanian-Italian Society.

On 1–10 November the museum hosted the exhibition of Aleksey Kravchenko's woodcuts. Organisers: the Society for Raising Awareness of the USSR Culture .

From 10 December to 1 January 1940, the museum ran the 5th autumn art exhibition. Organisers: Lithuanian Artists' Association.

The museum purchased 5 valuable treasures for the Department of History (from Užusienis Village, Varvaliai Village, Mesteliškės

Village, Vieکشniai Village and a treasure from Kaunas) (3 831 items).

1940

On 6–31 January the museum ran the 1st exhibition of lithuanian Women-Artists' Association works

A valuable art collection (103 items) was purchased from the owner of Beržėnai Manor, Jadwiga Potulicka Hutten-Czapska.

Germany and the Soviet Union having divided the spheres of influence and as Lithuania was being occupied by the USSR (on 15 June), President Antanas Smetona with the family left the country for Germany. As there was no resistance against the Red Army, the Baltic States were occupied and on 3 August incorporated into the USSR. The authorities of the invaders closed the non-communist newspapers, prohibited all public, cultural and religious organisations. Prominent politicians, activists from military and youth organizations were arrested and sent to USSR prisons. The years of large-scale exile began. The invaders organized a farce of elections. Ideological marks changed instantaneously. 'Cultural revolution' was under way: Lithuanian flag, anthem and coat of arms were changed, the books that the communists did not favour were removed from libraries, the names of streets and squares were also changed. Such cultural policy of the Soviets also had an impact on the museum's activities. In July the law on the protection of cultural heritage was passed and the registration of all monuments of culture began. Almost all employees of the museum were engaged in the drive to take inventory of all art valuables. The

staff had to deal with the works of art coming to the museum from nationalized institutions and manors. This registration, however, made it possible to protect them from the vandalism on the part of the former servants and the Red Army soldiers.

On 1 August, on order of the Commissioner of Education, the museum was deprived of the name of Vytautas the Great.

The museum was turned into a repository of nationalized property. The works of art and articles of applied art from closed institutions and organisations such as the Bank of Lithuania, The Ministry of External Affairs, Kaunas Municipality, the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts, Lithuanian Writers' Union, Lithuanian-French Society, etc., were delivered here.

Thus the collections were significantly enlarged. The museum acquired the collections from Barons von der Ropps' Pakruojis Manor, the valuables from Raguvėlė Manor, part of Rokiškis Tyzenhauz-Przedziecki's collection, industrialist Herbert Tillmans' art collection. Apart from that, several works were purchased in the exhibition of the recently regained Vilnius artists.



1941–1950

1941

Among the latest objects received were the valuables of the Lithuanian Presidential Palace, 291 exhibits in total, transferred by interim President Justas Paleckis' order of 3 April. The reserve of state awards was moved from the Presidential Office of Awards Funds to the museum's repository and thus was protected from destruction.

The war between Germany and the USSR was present in Lithuanian territory from the very beginning (22 June). On 23 June, 1941, a rebellion took place in Kaunas. Regrettably, Soviet occupation was replaced by German one. Lithuania fell into the disposition of the Reich Commissariat for Ostland. The tragedy of Lithuanian Jews in Kaunas forts, Paneriai began. Anti-German underground organizations and guerrilla groups were formed; conservator Pranas Baleniūnas was hiding Jews within the museum. During German occupation in 1941–1944, the museum was called again the Vytautas the Great Museum of Culture. However, it was banned to visitors and only several exhibitions were displayed. The main function of the museum was to preserve its treasures.

The museum's financial situation was worse than poor; it was lacking money not only for daily activities, but also for fabrics and cardboard to darken the windows of the museum to be

invisible to bombers.

The museum displayed a propaganda-based *Exhibition of the Red Terror*. After Paulius Galaunė's scare tactics to close the exhibition, the museum received fuel to heat the premises.

The publication *Vytautas the Great Museum of Culture Yearbook* was issued (editor Povilas Karazija).

1942

Germans were disposing the property of the museum as their own. The museum was deprived of the Judaica it possessed under depository rights; it was requested to donate works to Ostland centre in Riga and give paintings to decorate local German institutions. Museum-based exhibitions were not held. The museum displayed only M. K. Čiurlionis' exhibition. A review exhibition of Lithuanian Artists Union was arranged. Several valuable works were bought from it.

1943

A review exhibition of Lithuanian Artists Union was arranged.

On 2 November, a travelling propaganda exhibition of German graphics was launched. It was obligatory to purchase works from

this exhibition.

On 4 December, an exhibition of Vytautas Kasiulis was held. Several works of the artist were bought from the exhibition.

1944

As the front-line was approaching, at the end of the war the property of the museum was transferred to the main safe-deposit of the Lithuanian Bank central office in Kaunas. Here were placed glass photo negatives of folk art monuments, the M. K. Čiurlionis' cycle *The Zodiac*, Ruben's *The Crucifixion*, and several other valuable paintings. When retreating, Germans took away the keys of the safe-deposit and the exhibits stayed in the cellar of the bank for a number of years.

On 2 May a fine ceramics exhibition of the cooperative society Dailė was opened.

On 4 May an exhibition of Alfonsas Krivickas was opened. After the exhibition the works remained were added to the collections of the museum.

On 13–19 June an exhibition of the Kaunas Applied Art Institute students took place.

On 7 July an exhibition of Estonian graphic artist Eduard Wiiralt was opened.

Every exhibition was furnished with posters and catalogues.

In July the Soviet army invaded Lithuania again. Retreating Germans blew up the town's power-station and a 'skyscraper'

of industrialist Jonas Vailokaitis in the neighbourhood of the museum. The museum stayed without doors and windows with Russian soldiers, casual passers-by and roundabout residents slipping in.

Once the Soviets re-occupied Lithuania, the second wave of sovietisation began.

On 11 October under the decree of the Lithuanian SSR Council of People's Commissars, the museum was renamed to the Kaunas State M. K. Čiurlionis Museum.

In 1941 the Protection of Cultural Monuments Agency expropriated a part of the collection of a famous collector, scholar, polyglot and bibliophile Vladas Daumantas. In 1944, when retreating to the West, Daumantas himself left a part of his collection to the Vytautas the Great Museum of Culture for safeguard; when Daumantas was declared missing, the collection passed to the museum's disposition in 1949–1950.

1946

The most valuable exhibits of the M. K. Čiurlionis Museum, held in the Kaunas central bank safe-deposit, were soaked due to the river Nemunas flood; damage was done to the M. K. Čiurlionis' cycle *The Zodiac* and some photo negatives.

1947

The museum retrieved two permanent displays: M. K. Čiurlionis' art and contemporary art.

For the special purpose of the movie *Soviet Lithuania* by the film studio *Mostfilm* an exhibition of Lithuanian folk art was installed, which was then removed.

Two exhibitions were held, namely the USSR artists' works and Stepas Žukas' posthumous exhibition.

1948

Several halls of the museum were repaired.

Exhibitions of Lithuanian and Russian Soviet artists, of Western European art of 16th–19th centuries, and of contemporary Belgian artists were arranged.

A small display of Latvian and Estonian artists' works was restored, which was removed the same year.

The *Autumn Exhibition of Lithuanian Soviet Artists 1947* was held.

1949

The 20th century Lithuanian art display was altered by eliminating formalistic works. The works of Justinas Vienožinskis and Birutė Mingėlaitė were removed, and 22 works of Kajetonas Šklėrius were added.

The M. K. Čiurlionis display was transformed by adding to it more realistic works.

The exhibition of Kazys Šimonis' old architectural images of

Kaunas was held.

The exhibition of Lithuanian SSR Soviet Artists was arranged.

Paulius Galaunė was dismissed from director's position for being 'politically unreliable' and replaced by Klemensas Čerbulėnas (1912–1986).

On 15 October the director's position was taken by Bronislovas Sirutis who supervised until 1951.

1950

The museum initiated agreements with institutions, factories, organizations and schools concerning visits to the museum.

The entire display of the Department of Art was removed to give place to the exhibition of works from the Applied and Decorative Art Institute. The said exhibition was not held while the premises were given to display the works of graduates from Moscow and Leningrad art academies.

Travelling exhibitions were being prepared.

The first travelling exhibition was held in Marijampolė.

The museum was opened 232 days; it was visited by 86 viewers per day on average.



1951–1960

1951

The year was marked by Stalinist propaganda. The museum housed the Stalin's biography research society, which was attended by 8 museum co-workers; 7 museum research workers completed evening-courses at Marxism-Leninism university; 12 editions of wall newspaper *For Soviet Art* were published. Museum staff was obliged to prepare and give lectures on political propaganda issues such as 'World Nations in the Struggle for Peace', 'The Great Construction of Communism', 'Vatican Serves Imperialism' and similar.

The artist Petras Stauskas (1919–2003) was appointed the museum's director.

The museum organised 2 exhibitions at its premises and 11 travelling exhibitions in rural areas, which were visited by 5 924 visitors.

Annual number of visitors increased by 7 thousand, reaching 18 157 that year.

1952

The museum acquired a valuable collection of Jonas Rustem's card sketches and drawings.

The museum organised 3 anniversary exhibitions: illustrations of Nikolai Gogol's works, reproductions of Leonardo da Vinci works, and reproductions of Karl Pavlovich Briullov's paintings. Due to these exhibitions the museum revoked preparations for survey exhibitions of Antanas Žmuidzinaičius and Viktoras Petravičius.

The museum's staff organised the 1st Kaunas district folk art exhibition. The exhibition was attended by 32 860 visitors.

Parts of the museum collections were used to arrange an *Exhibition of 17th–19th Century Interior Design and Porcelain*.

10 travelling exhibitions were held in Kaunas district welcoming 11 597 visitors.

An exhibition of Lithuanian art was shown in Moscow.

The number of visitors increased 3½ times reaching 64 744.

The museum possessed 227 596 exhibits.

1953

After the death of Stalin on 5 March, a warming period of the USSR began marked by destalinisation process and elimination of Gulag system. Cultural life gained more liberty. Artists received less pressure and the communist party became tolerant

to ideologically-neutral creative works. However, all cultural activity was strictly controlled.

The museum fell under the subordination of the Lithuanian SSR Ministry of Culture (previously subordinated by the Lithuanian SSR Council of Ministers).

4 exhibitions of Kaunas artists were organised. 3 exhibition catalogues were published.

The museum published a catalogue-manual of the permanent exhibitions of Primary Culture and Fine Arts Department.

The museum was visited by 28 000 visitors and earned 17 000 roubles.

1954

Under the order of the Lithuanian SSR Ministry of Culture, the museum received a collection of Chinese, Japanese and Tibetan art from Moscow State Oriental Culture Museum (193 pieces).

The travelling exhibition visited 11 small towns and kolkhoz farms (attended by 32 563 visitors).

Regarding attributions and consultations, visits were made to Moscow, Leningrad and Minsk.

The museum was visited by 38 821 visitors.

1955

A number of noteworthy exhibitions were held, among them the exhibition of colour prints and posters from the People's Republic of China; two Russian art exhibitions from the Tretyakov Gallery; exhibition of Latvian and Estonian soviet artists; exhibition of etchings and prints of Russian soviet artists, and exhibition of posters from the Democratic Republic of Poland.

The exhibition of the 15th–19th century West European Art from the Hermitage Museum gained huge attention and was visited by 24 475 visitors.

The museum's activity was profitable with 322 081 roubles spent vs. 327 623 roubles earned.

The museum welcomed 45 544 visitors (sometimes 1700 visitors daily).

1956

The museum received a collection of Ancient Egypt and Antiquity from the Hermitage Museum.

8 exhibitions were held, the most noteworthy being of Lithuanian classics Petras Kalpokas, Kajetonas Šklėrius, and of Georgian graphic arts.

The publication *30 Years of Kaunas State M. K. Čiurlionis Museum* was published.

The museum published first educational books for children *Enchanted Treasures* and *Secrets of the Great Tyruliai* written by museum co-worker Petras Tarasenka.

1957

The museum held 4 exhibitions only, including Marcés Katiliūtė's graphics, Litvinenko's works, Kaunas artists, and Lithuanian photography.

The museum's travelling exhibition visited 11 locations (attended by 21 456 visitors).

The museum was visited by 32 973 visitors.

1958

The Lithuanian SSR Ministry of Culture acquired Petras Rimša's creative legacy, which was passed to the museum's disposition in 1962.

Permanent exhibitions suffered crisis. Only the exhibition of M. K. Čiurlionis' works remained while the rest were sacrificed for temporary exhibitions.

The museum organised anniversary exhibitions dedicated to Kazys Šimonis, Jonas Šileika and Rimtas Kalpokas. Relevant catalogues were published.

Foreign exhibitions represented Romanian artist A. Zhikidze, Soviet artists, and reproductions of Raphael.

The museum commenced to arrange meetings with artists during exhibitions, which resulted in a considerably increased number of visitors.

Connections with the newly launched Lithuanian Radio and the Lithuanian Film Studio were established. Consequently, exhibitions gave start to film newsreels.

1959

Ancient Egypt art collection of the Count Konstantinas Tyzskiewicz in Lohoisk was acquired. The collection was purchased from Vilnius antique store by bishop Juozapas Stankevičius. Ieva Andriulytė-Aleksienė, the then Head of Applied Arts and History Department in the museum, made efforts to induce the owner of the collection to sell it to the museum. Maintaining that *gods are not for sale* he refused, but did not object to its allocation in the museum after his death. The Collector's will was fulfilled by bishop Mykolas Tarvydis.

The museum was requested to hand to the Central Archive the collection of the Presidential Palace obtained in 1941. However, the museum succeeded in defending the most valuable part of the collection and the Archive received only greeting letters to Antanas Smetona, documents of the presidential office, and photographs of American Lithuanians.

8 exhibitions were held. The most significant among them were of works by Armenian artist A. Kodzoyan, one of Czechoslovakian contemporary art and of Japanese contemporary applied art.

The travelling exhibition visited 11 locations. It was attended by 26 506 visitors.

1960

The museum acquired a collection of poet, cultural activist and priest Adolfas Sabaliauskas– Žalia Rūta, which was deposited in the museum in 1949 after his death.

The museum organised 13 exhibitions, including one of New Zealand painting, of Estonian artist K. Siuvalo, of Armenian artist M. M. Abegian, and of Soviet Latvian watercolourists.

The book *About Music and Art. Letters, Notes and Articles. M. K. Čiurlionis* was published.

The museum was visited by 38 453 visitors.



1961–1970

1961

Painter Antanas Žmuidzinaičius donated to Lithuania his own and other artists' works collection as well as his house on S. Nėries street (presently V. Putvinskio str.).

2 750 exhibits incongruous with the museum's type were handed to Kaunas History Museum (presently Kaunas War Museum) and Šiauliai Ethnographic Museum.

4 exhibitions were arranged from the museum collections: ancient West European painting; Belgian painting: 1st half of 20th c.; Lithuanian Soviet artists; and Kaunas painters' works.

The museum was visited by 45 920 visitors.

1962

Lithuanian SSR Council of Ministers handed over the building of the Garrison Church to install a gallery of monumental sculpture and stained-glass.

Lithuanian SSR Ministry of Culture purchased and passed on the works of unique folk artist Elžbieta Daugviliėnė.

9 exhibitions were organised. Exhibitions from abroad included Turkmenian carpets, Uzbek graphic arts, Cuban graphics, and

works by the Estonian painter L. Mikko.

The museum participated in the *Baltic Furniture Exhibition* in Tallinn gaining 1st degree diploma for its folk furniture exhibition.

Faculty of Fine Arts at Folk University was established in the museum.

The museum's travelling exhibitions were visited by 50 695. Museum's exhibitions only 60 052 visitors respectively.

1963

On 16 June in Druskininkai, the display was opened in the house formerly belonging to M. K. Čiurlionis' parents. On this occasion a publication *M. K. Čiurlionis Memorial Museum in Druskininkai* was issued.

Approval was given to construct a new M. K. Čiurlionis' gallery with an allocation of 125 000 roubles.

17 exhibitions were organised. Most significant among them were Lithuanian portrait exhibition; 17th–20th century Russian etchings; Samogitian folk crafts; Georgian fine arts; Vladas Eidukevičius' paintings; Voldemaras Manomaitis' ceramics; Petras Rimša's sculptures; and Juozas Zikaras' sculptures.

The museum was visited by 51 593 visitors.

1964

Nikita Khrushchev was replaced by Leonid Brezhnev. The name of the latter was associated with a *stagnation* period of the USSR that lasted almost twenty years. Stagnation was obvious both in economic and social life. An expanded and ineffective bureaucratic apparatus was led by aged leaders of the communist party turning into symbols of the time and heroes of anecdotes. Communist authorities restricted particularly the actions of the Catholic Church, which was unmasking the antireligious and antinational policy of the government. A dissident movement began the activists of which were often protected, sheltered and hidden by the administrators of the museum.

The museum acquired a unique gothic sculpture *Veliuona Madonna* found in *Santaka* Cinema (former Dominican Church).

The museum organised 17 exhibitions. The more remarkable were *Feudal Domestic Interiors (17th –18th centuries)* and *Renaissance Interiors*.

An inter-republican exhibition of theatre decorations and costumes from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Belarus was held.

The museum was attended by 51 997 visitors.

1965

On 15 July a memorial museum of sculptor Vincas Grybas was opened in Jurbarkas (given back to Jurbarkas municipality in 1991).

On 19 July a sculpture and stained-glass gallery was opened, being the only of its kind gallery in the Soviet Union (given back to the Church in 1992).

On 24 October when commemorating the 90th anniversary of Čiurlionis, the second house of the Čiurlionis' family was opened.

Exhibitions of folk art and of Kaunas artists were held. Catalogues published.

Based on the museum collections, exhibitions of Lithuanian Soviet graphics, sculpture and applied arts were arranged. An expanded exhibition of Čiurlionis' works was prepared for the artist's 90th anniversary.

By the number of visitors the museum outran other Lithuanian museums. It was visited by 204 046 people.

1966

By decision of the Lithuanian SSR Council of Ministers, the Pažaislis monastery – architectural ensemble was handed over.

On 22 March 22 by executing the will of painter prof. Antanas Žmuidzinaičius, a memorial museum was opened in his house installing there a *Room of Devils* (the artist's main collection), an exhibition of his works and other memorial rooms.

16 exhibitions were organised. Among the most significant were those of Antanas Samuolis, of Barbora Didžiokienė, of Olga Kalpokienė and *International Exhibition of Book Art and Graphics* shown in Leipzig in 1965.

6 exhibition catalogues were issued.

The museum was visited by 208 637 visitors.

1967

A famous collector Mykolas Žilinskas (1904–1992) from West Berlin started to donate to Lithuania works from his rich art collection, a part of which arrived to the museum in 1974 (entire collection of 1682 exhibits finally came to the museum in 1995 only, after Žilinskas' death).

Short-Stories of a Museum Worker by Paulius Galaunė, the first essayist book related to museum work and art criticism was published.

In the garden of the Čiurlionis house, poet Eduardas Mieželaitis planted an oak-tree brought from LeoTolstoy's grave.

The museum was visited by 288 013 visitors.

1968

Marcėš Katiliūtė – young, extraordinary productive and tragical died artist – creative legacy was acquired (48 works of painting, 102 graphics and 462 drawings).

The museum organised 9 exhibitions. The museum collections were used for the exhibition *Restored Ancient Painting Works*. Exhibitions from foreign countries included

applied and decorative Arts of the Russian Federation, Estonian

graphics (from Tartu State Art Museum), and Prof. Adamson-Eric's works (Estonia). 6 catalogues were issued.

The museum published Ieva Andriulytė-Aleksienė's book *Ancient Egypt Art*, and P. Galaunė's album *Lithuanian Folk Art. Graphics and Paintings*.

During preparations for the opening of the new building – M. K. Čiurlionis gallery, the museum aroused reporters' enthusiasm. They wrote many articles to main Soviet Union magazines and newspapers: *Izvestiya*, *Sovietskaya Zhenshchina*, *Comsomolskaya Pravda*.

Moscow news agency *Agenstvo Pechati Novostei* prepared filmstrips about Čiurlionis for foreign countries. 12 filmstrips accompanied by texts and photos from the museum were released.

The museum was visited by 327 155 visitors.

1969

On 30 December the new Čiurlionis gallery was opened (total value 489 265 roubles. Initial amount exceeded nearly 4 times). Architect Feliksas Vitas.

The museum acquired collections of Jonas Prapuolenis' furniture, works of Jonas Šileika and Olga Kalpokienė.

The museum organised exhibitions of Italian painter Giovanni Omiccioli, of Liepāja artists *Liepāja Is My Town*, and of Bulgarian artists V. Barakov, N. Petkov, V. Peshev and A. Stamenov.

7 exhibition catalogues were published.

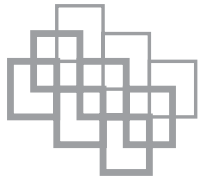
The collection of devils was much enjoyed. It was depicted in radio broadcasts in Riga and Kiev, and the press of Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Georgia, Latvia and Russia. A set of postcards and a publication *Devils* were issued.

1970

Vladimir's Lenin's 100th birth anniversary was widely honoured within the Soviet Union. For this occasion the museum dedicated several exhibitions: *Lithuanian Soviet Graphics*, *Lithuanian Soviet painting*, Kaunas artists.

Using the collections of the museum, exhibitions *20th century Belgian painting and graphics*, and exhibition of Petras Rimša's works were arranged.

After opening the new M. K. Čiurlionis gallery, the government was requested for permission to raise ticket price up to 20 kopecks.



1971–1980

THE ENTIRE DECADE WAS MARKED BY NEW NONCONFORMIST IDEAS FROM THE WEST, WHICH IN ONE OR ANOTHER WAY SUCCEEDED IN ACCESSING LITHUANIA. THEIR FOLLOWERS WERE NOT EASY TO CONTROL BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT. POLITICAL DISTURBANCES ON 14–16 MAY, 1972 IN KAUNAS, CAUSED BY THE DEATH OF YOUNG MAN ROMAS KALANTA IN THE RESULT OF HIS PROTESTS AGAINST THE SOVIET REGIME, SHOWED THE DISABILITY OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES.

1971

12 exhibitions were arranged. Major interest was shown to the Japanese art exhibition (visited by 10 950 visitors) and sculptor Nikolajus Tomskis' exhibition (12 330 visitors).

Piano music performances were organised in the M. K. Čiurlionis gallery.

2 documentaries were created about sculptor Petras Rimša and two Čiurlionis' sisters, museum co-worker Valerija and musicologist Jadvyga.

The Gallery of Sculpture and Stained-glass exhibited Juozas Zikaras' works to commemorate the artist's 90th anniversary.

The number of visitors exceeded half a million.

1972

The museum acquired 34 Adomas Galdikas' carvings, and Matas Menčinskas' sculptures.

M. K. Čiurlionis' cycle *Town* was purchased from artist Petras Rimša.

At the will of the artists, the museum obtained the works of Lithuanian emigrants in Italy Sofija Pacevičienė and Irena Pacevičiūtė, which were kept in the museum since war times.

The display of M. K. Čiurlionis' paintings was expanded and renewed; his works were framed into specially created tapes and frames by furniture master Jonas Prapuolenis.

14 exhibitions were organised, including display of painting, graphics and sculpture *Lithuania in the Brotherhood of the USSR Nations* for the 50th anniversary of the USSR. For the same occasion exhibitions of Kaunas artists and of Kaunas watercolours masters were held. 8 exhibition catalogues were issued.

Visits of the museum co-workers expanded considerably in geographical terms. Exhibitions were visited not only in neighbouring countries, but also in Democratic Republic of Germany, Poland, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia.

During schoolchildren's winter and spring holidays the museum organised *Country Children's Days in the Museum*, elocution courses at schools, and a club *Schoolchildren - Art Lovers*.

The Merkinė's section of pioneers was solemnly granted the name of Čiurlionis.

The number of visitors was 720 922, whereas half of it from travelling exhibitions held in the province.

1973

From Paris Jadvyga Karužienė brought three graphic works donated by Pranas Gailius.

The widow of painter Adomas Galdikas donated 96 paintings of her husband.

1974

In January, Lithuania bid farewell to Antanas Sniečkus, a long-lasting communist leader of the country who had major impact on the most important processes in soviet Lithuania's economy, culture and ideology. The post of the 1st secretary of Lithuanian Communist Party was then taken by political functionary Petras Griškevičius. Like in the entire Soviet Union, Lithuania became prevailed by 'stability' and any changes were avoided. The reality and the propaganda were incomparable like day and night. Stagnation pervaded every sphere of life.

The museum arranged 73 travelling exhibitions in 38 rural

locations. They were visited by 500 200 people. However, it was noticed that at times exhibitions were not safeguarded and exhibits disappearing. Thus, it was decided to reduce the number of exhibitions and to revoke some locations.

The museum held exhibitions of Estonian SSR painters (from the Tartu Art Museum) and of graphic works from German Democratic Republic.

The museum organised an exhibition of soviet Lithuanian graphic works in German Democratic Republic, Latvia, and Estonia; an exhibition of soviet painting and graphic works was held in Czechoslovakia.

The number of visitors was 633 311; as usual, the majority of it visited the Devils Museum.

1975

M. K. Čiurlionis' 100th birth anniversary was widely commemorated. On this occasion the first exhibition outside Lithuania was opened in the Moscow Tretyakov Gallery (66 works shown). In 2 months it was visited by 239 070 visitors. A concert and a jubilee were organised in the Moscow Bolshoy Theatre. Commemorations were arranged in Leningrad, Kiev, Odessa, Kazan, Dnepropetrovsk, Krasnoyarsk and Omsk.

On 22 September the third building of the Druskininkai Memorial Museum was opened. Close by a Čiurlionis' bust by sculptor Kazys Švažas was installed. A monument to Čiurlionis by sculptor Vladas Vildžiūnas was opened in the town centre.

14 exhibitions were held. Among them, the exhibition *Western European Landscape of 17th–19th centuries from Museum Collections*, an exhibition of Kazakh artists and an exhibition of international philately.

The museum welcomed 648 025 visitors.

1976

The museum collections served for the exhibitions: *Soviet Human Figure in Graphic Arts*, *Newly Acquired Works*, *Barbora Didžiokienės' Paintings*, and *Kajetonas. Šklėrius' Watercolours*.

The exhibition of Georgian primitivist painter Niko Pirosmiani attracted major attention.

Antanas Žmuidzinaičius' 100th birth anniversary was honoured. On this occasion an exhibition of the artist's works and various commemorations were arranged in municipal institutions and schools.

The museum was visited by 602 459 visitors.

1977

From a private person the museum began to purchase (finished in 1980) a unique collection of Dagestan applied arts (233 pieces).

Young listener's school was initiated to give lectures to schoolchildren along with visits to workshops of Kaunas artists.

16 exhibitions were organised. The most popular were of 16th–

18th century Italian painting, Peter Paul Ruben's works (exposed twice on public's request), and early 20th century Belgian painting (from collections of Kaunas and Riga museums). 6 catalogues were issued.

The museum was visited by 605 752 visitors.

1978

On 18 January the Ceramics Museum was opened in the cellarage of the Town Hall.

On 23 June the Kaunas Picture Gallery was opened (architects Liucija Gedgaudienė and Jonas Navakas) to place Mykolas Žilinskas' collection donated to Kaunas. For the opening day a republican exhibition of young artists was held to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the All-Union Leninist Young Communist League. At that time planned displays were being finalised. The album *Western European Painting in the M. K. Čiurlionis State Art Museum* was released (compiled by Birutė Ziuteliėnė).

The museum acquired a collection of folk carver Lionginas Šėpka's sculptures and was intensely purchasing young artists' works from exhibitions.

The museum was visited by 877 476 visitors.

1979

On 9 January in the Kaunas Picture Gallery were opened permanent displays of Mykolas Žilinskas' donated collection,

the museum's Ancient Western European painting and Soviet nations art.

On the occasion of the USSR days of culture in West Berlin, an exhibition of Čiurlionis' works was opened in Charlottenburg castle. It was organised by Berlin Art Festival (Berliner Festspiele GmbH). 36 works were shown. The exhibition had 13 000 visitors.

The exhibition of art works collected by priest Ričardas Mikutavičius (1935–1998) received huge attention. It was one of the first private collection exhibitions. (Due to political reasons its posters and catalogue were not publicly distributed).

Based on the museum collections, painting exhibitions were arranged to commemorate Antanas Samuolis' 80th anniversary and to introduce French fine arts of 17th–20th centuries. Relevant catalogues were issued.

The Kaunas Picture Gallery organised 16 exhibitions mostly initiated by the Lithuanian Artists Union.

The number of visitors exceeded a million – 1 042 770.

1980

After lengthy restoration works in the Pažaislis Monastery a display of etchings and applied art was opened in the guesthouse of the monastery ensemble. At once, it received 23 000 visitors.

Through the mediation of Lithuanian SSR Fine Arts Museum, works of US-emigrated painter Vytautas Kazimieras Jonynas

were donated to the museum.

After a 40-year break art collector Mykolas Žilinskas visited Lithuania.

The museum was visited by an important figure of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev and his spouse Raisa (in 1985 he became General Secretary of the USSR Communist Party).

The museum collections were used to arrange the exhibition of German and Austrian fine arts of 17th–20th centuries, of Petras Kalpokas' paintings for the artist's 100th birth anniversary, of soviet Lithuanian fine arts, and of Liudas Truikys' scenography *Searching for Fundamentals of Forms and Music Synthesis*.

The catalogue *Kaunas Picture Gallery. Mykolas Žilinskas' Collection Donated to the M. K. Čiurlionis Art Museum* was issued (compiled by Kazimiera Galaunienė, Petras Kimbrys, Malvydas Sakalauskas).

The museum was visited by 952 400 visitors.



1981–1990

1981

At the decision of the Lithuanian SSR Ministry of Culture, in order to prevent from decay, monumental textile exhibits from the churches of Kalviai, Rumšiškės, Žašliai, Žiežmariai, Alytus and Veisiejai were handed over to the museum.

The museum organised an exhibition of paintings from Pallas Art School (1919–1940) from the Tartu Art Museum collections. The Kaunas Picture Gallery held an exhibition of Tartu fine arts for the twin city's cultural days in Kaunas; the Tartu Art Museum held the exhibition *Lithuanian Painting 1900–1940* from the museum collections.

Next to numerous personal exhibitions (Laima Drazdauskaitė, Algirdas Lukštas, Vincentas Gečas) held at the Kaunas Picture Gallery, the most visited one was that of Kaunas young artists and the republican exhibition *Scenography Works, Theatre Property, Costumes and Decorations*. Both were visited by 123 036 people.

The museum commemorated 100th birth anniversaries of sculptors Petras Rimša and Juozas Zikaras by arranging exhibitions in the Gallery of Sculpture and Stained-glass, and issuing a catalogue of Juozas Zikaras' works.

The museum was visited by 985 265 visitors.

1982

A collection of Adomas Varnas' photo negatives was acquired.

The display of the Pažaislis Monastery was expanded by etchings from the Hermitage.

A part of exhibition halls in the central building of the museum needed to be converted into repositories due to increasing number of exhibits.

The exhibitions *Ancient Lithuanian Art, Ancient Russian Art and Fine Arts Exhibition for the 60 Years of the USSR* were arranged out of the museum collections.

Among 18 exhibitions held in the Kaunas Picture Gallery, the most outstanding ones were of the graphic and scenography works by Latvian artist Ilmar Blumberg, and of Dominican painter and political activist Silvano Lora (1931–2003).

The museum was visited by 968 480 visitors.

1983

On 13 May, a new wing to the Antanas Žmuidzinaičius Museum was opened to place the artist's collections (architect Algirdas Mažeika). It displayed collections of devils, witches and ritual

masks from all over the world and those made by Lithuanian folk craftsmen. In six months the museum was visited by

379 478 people. Due to particular popularity of the collection this museum is simply called the *Devils Museum*.

A group of architects (Egidijus Miliūnas, Kęstutis Kisielius, Saulius Juškys), having won a competition with 5 other Kaunas architect teams, initiated a project of a grand three-storey building with a target to move there the increased collection donated by Mykolas Žilinskas, to expand it with newly sent works, and to exhibit collections of West European painting and applied arts.

The central building of the museum hosted the exhibition *16th Century West European Ornament Etchings* from the Hermitage collections.

The most controversial was the exhibition *Ancient Portraits of Nesvizh and Grodno* from the Belarus SSR Art Museum; the cause of displaying it in Lithuania was the unsuccessful efforts of art historian Marija Matuškaitė to access, investigate and publish in a monograph the portraits of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Consequently, museum co-workers, by using their personal relations, organised this exhibition in Kaunas. The importance of the exhibition was reinforced by issuing a catalogue with exhaustive presentations of Lithuanian historical figures prepared by the Belorussian museum staff.

In exchange, an exhibition of the early 20th century Belgian painting from the museum collections was held in the Minsk Art Museum.

The museum was visited by 986 690 visitors.

1984

A new branch of the museum was established in the restored Kėdainiai Town Hall with a display of the 18th–to early 20th century painting and applied art (transferred to Kėdainiai Municipality in 1990).

The museum acquired creative legacy of the deceased sculptor Vytautas Juzikėnas; in 1984–1985 purchased a collection of Émile Antoine Bourdelle's illustrations (France); a large number of works from various exhibitions; considerably expanded the collection of the early 20th century Kaunas artists; purchased the works of Adomas Varnas, Petras Kalpokas, Antanas Samuolis, Mstislavas Dobužinskis, and Antanas Žmuidzinaičius; acquired a M. K. Čiurlionis' fluorine etching and his letter to Adomas Varnas.

Magdalena Birutė Stankūnienė (USA) donated her collection of drawings and sketches (205 pieces).

34 exhibitions were held. Among the most significant ones was the exhibition of paintings by Modernism classics Viktoras Vizgirda and Antanas Gudaitis dedicated to both artists' 80th anniversaries; the exhibition of *Ancient French Painting* from the museum collections; the exhibition *17th–19th Centuries West European Still-lives* from the Riga Foreign Art Museum supplemented by 18th–20th c. West European still-lives from the museum collections; the exhibition *15th–18th Centuries West European Etchings* from the Hermitage; the exhibition

Contemporary Polish Graphics; the exhibition *Belarus Folk Textile* from the Minsk Art Museum; and the exhibition of Latgale artists from Latvia.

The museum won first place in the socialist competition (for the best rates in visitors, excursions, exhibitions, lectures, radio and TV broadcasts, exhibition catalogues and similar).

The museum was visited by 990 300 visitors.

1985

The museum was given the building of the Muslim mosque, anticipated to serve as Children's museum or Oriental art museum (given back to Kaunas Muslim religious community in 1991).

38 exhibitions were organised. Among the most important ones was the exhibition of Liudas Truikys' scenography; the exhibition of newly acquired art works to commemorate the museum's 60th anniversary; the exhibition *17th–18th Centuries Italian Painting from the USSR Museums. New Discoveries*; and the exhibition *18th–19th Centuries Baltic German Painting* from the Riga Foreign Art Museum.

The museum organised an exhibition of Lithuanian contemporary folk art in the Raubichi Folk Art Museum (Belarus SSR), and an exhibition of Kaunas artists in Riga (Latvian SSR Art Museum).

The museum was visited by former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone who was highly impressed by Čiurlionis' works and thus initiated his art exhibition in Tokyo in 1992.

A meeting took place with Ichiro Kato, chairman of M. K. Čiurlionis' Club in Japan.

The museum was visited by 1 138 045 visitors; nearly half of them attended the Devils Museum.

1986

The museum organised an exhibition of Justinas Vienožinskis, founder of Kaunas art school, dedicated to the artist's 100th birthday anniversary. The museum collections were used to arrange the display of lamps and of animalistic art.

Other exhibitions included *18th Century French Portrait. Etchings from the Hermitage Collections*; Białystok folk art exhibition (Poland); still-lives from the USSR Artists Union collections; Belarus SSR young artists' works; and fine arts exhibition from the Estonian SSR Tartu Art Museum.

The museum was visited by 1 239 607 visitors.

1987

A display of Pažaislis' Maecenas portraits was installed in the Pažaislis Monastery.

31 exhibition was organised. Among the most significant ones were the exhibition of Antanas Martinaitis' paintings; the 100th anniversary exhibition of Kazys Šimonis' works; the republican exhibition of posters and the republican exhibition of book illustrations.

The museum was visited by a record number of visitors 1 280 580.

1988

The year 1988 was crucial in the struggle for independence. Lithuanian nationalist movement *Sąjūdis* was born. Lithuania restored its interwar symbols, while the Baltic Road proved the determination of Baltic nations to seek independence.

After an unexpected dismissal of long-term director Petras Stauskas, on 15 March the position of the museum's director was taken by art critic Malvydas Sakalauskas (until 17 September, 1992).

The museum purchased Auguste Rodin's (1840–1917) sculpture *Eternal Spring*.

The Kaunas Picture Gallery held 27 exhibitions. Major attention of the Lithuanian audience and visitors from the USSR was paid to the exhibition *Lithuanian Jewish Art (13th–20th c.)*.

A monograph about Petras Galaunė was published (author Zita Žemaitytė).

The museum was visited by one million visitors.

1989

On 30 June a new art gallery was opened. It was solemnly named after Mykolas Žilinskas. Since its opening until the end of the year, it received 116 403 visitors.

The museum requested permission from municipal authorities to restore crosses on the Gallery of Sculpture and Stained-glass, which were removed when the Garrison (St. Michael the Archangel) Church was passed to the museum's disposition.

On the Bell Tower of the museum a tricolour flag was first time raised.

Construction of the building of the Vytautas Kazimieras Jonynas Gallery in Druskininkai began.

Donations of Pranas Domšaitis' and Albertas Vesčiūnas' works were received.

The museum organised exhibitions dedicated to Lithuanian interwar history: *Lithuanian Money. 1915–1941, Sport Trophies, and Our Flags* (exhibited in Norway in 1998). The museum held an exhibition of Lithuanian emigrant artists and an exhibition-manifestation of exile art works.

The exhibition *Čiurlionis and Lithuanian Painting. 1900–1940* was held in the W. Lehmbruck Museum in Duisburg, Germany.

The museum was visited by 1 152 465 visitors.

1990

On 11 March Lithuania declared the restoration of its independence. The central government in Moscow tried to influence events by a variety of blockades which did not have major impact on the aspirations of liberation. The tragic events of 13 January, 1991 disclosed the powerlessness of Moscow. Lithuania was creating a new life based on the principles of

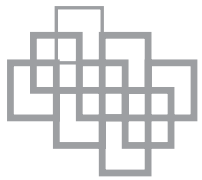
freedom and democracy. Within a short time the country restored or newly established the main state institutions and the army, reformed various spheres of life, introduced national currency, and established political, economical and cultural relations with many countries around the world. The museum intensified its contacts with foreign countries and increased the number of foreign displays and exhibits.

The Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery opened as exhibition *17th – early 20th century West European porcelain and faience*, which was complemented with oriental art exhibits, and is presently called the *Display of the World Applied Arts*.

The display of the ancient Egypt art was opened.

The mostly visited exhibition was *Lithuanian Badges of Honour 1918–1940*.

Topics of exhibitions were changing. The museum held the third exhibition of religious art from the collections of the former Religious Art Museum; the exhibition *Peaks of Metal Crosses*; and the exhibition Lithuanian Folk Embroidery from *Lithuanian Museum Collections. 19th Century Symbols and Mythological Motifs*.



1991–2000

1991

The museum celebrated its 70th anniversary. On this occasion an exhibition of newly acquired exhibits was organised (in the Čiurlionis Art Museum and the Picture Gallery). During the years of national rebirth the most significant was one of the first professional numismatic exhibition *19th–20th Century Medals on Lithuanian Theme*.

The Vincas Grybas memorial museum was passed to Jurbarkas Municipality, while a restored mosque building to Kaunas Muslim religious community.

The museum received new valuable exhibits. Namely, the works of painter Adomas Galdikas were donated by the congregation of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Putnam, USA) via cultural activist Beatričė Kleizaite-Vasaris, and artists Vytautas Ignas (USA) and Algimantas Švėgžda donated several of their works.

In front of the Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery the sculpture *Human Being* was built (sculptor Petras Mazūras).

1992

The buildings of the Garrison Church and the Pažaislis Monastery

were given back to the Catholic Church.

The Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery started to intensively organise international exhibitions. Among the first ones was the exhibition of Baltic architectural triennial *Continins Dexontinius*; a highly successful exhibition of Austrian and Lithuanian artists *Unrecognising the Borders*, and the exhibition of Finnish sculptor Eero Hiironen's sculptures and drawings after which the sculptor donated to the museum his work *Water Surface*.

The Tokyo Sezon Museum of Art organised M. K. Čiurlionis' retrospective exhibition *Čiurlionis: Fantasiist and Mystic of Fin-de-siècle Lithuania*, the first so large exhibition of Čiurlionis' works (165 pieces), which gained extraordinary popularity overseas.

On 15 October, art historian Osvaldas Daugelis appointed to the museum director position.

The museum was visited by the Swedish royal family, King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia.

The Lithuanian Fund in Chicago donated one million litas to Lithuanian culture out of which 300 US dollars were attributed to the protection of the M. K. Čiurlionis heritage.

1993

In Druskininkai, the gallery of painter Vytautas Kazimieras Jonynas (1907-1997) was opened (architect Algimantas Kančas).

The museum acquired Elena Jakutytė's graphic works and a collection of Rimantas Šulskis' sculptures and drawings.

The geography of international contemporary art exhibitions was enlarging little by little. The Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery introduced contemporary Slovenian art, modern Belgian Francophone art, Wilhelm G. Niemöller's (Germany) works, Vytas Sakalas' works from Chicago, contemporary Georgian painting, 20th century Latvian painting, and Duisburg Secession.

The Kaunas Picture Gallery organised an exhibition to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of famous collector Aleksandras Račkus showing his collections of numismatics, applied arts and graphics.

An exhibition of Lithuanian Republic awards was held in the Latvian Historic Museum in Riga.

1994

The memorial museum of scenographer Liudas Truikys (1904–1987) and opera singer Marijona Rakauskaitė (1892–1975) was opened; an exhibition for the scenographer's

90th anniversary was held.

The cinema *Menapilio kinas* was opened (headed by Daina

Kamarauskienė), which initiated the projection of movies with commentaries and lectures on art and culture, art styles, trends and tendencies.

1995

The renewed display of ancient world was opened to show exhibits from Egypt and Antiquity at the Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery.

The museum acquired a part of Benedictine treasure, the finding of 16th century Lithuanian silver coins and West European golden coins, among which a particularly valuable was the Spanish Carlos V half-taller countersigned by Zygmunt August.

The M. Žilinskas Art Gallery organised Carl Friedrich Claus' exhibition *Landscapes of Thoughts*; the sixth international seminar on bone china and porcelain *Idea*, and an exhibition of five Norwegian artists.

Thirty pieces of Čiurlionis' works were shown in the exhibition *Occultism and Avant-garde: from Munch to Mondrian. 1900–1915* in the *Schirn Kunsthalle*, Frankfurt am Main.

1996

On 14 December, 1996 the House and Museum of Lithuanian art and culture conservators, Adelė Galaunienė (1895–1962) and Paulius Galaunė (1890–1988), was opened.

In collaboration with the Lithuanian Art Museum, the exhibition

Joy and Fury. Central European Painting from the Baroque to the Symbolism from Lithuanian Collections was organised in the Sinebryhoff Museum in Helsinki and the Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery. Catalogues were issued in Finnish, English and Lithuanian.

The Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery displayed an exhibition of German advertising photography and the installation of minimalist celebrity Hanne Darboven, while the Kaunas Picture Gallery held Eva Maria Kentner's exhibition *Landschaftlich / Peizažiška*.

An enormous public attention was attracted by four Tibetan monks from Guyto Tantric University (Arunachal Pradesh, India) who created an Avalokiteshvara mandala and traditional butter sculptures at the Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery.

The museum was visited by Czech president Vaclav Havel.

1997

On 1 January, the Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis Art Museum was granted the status of national museum.

The museum obtained the largest and particularly valuable collection of German modern art (172 pieces), which was collected and donated to the museum by artist

Eva Maria Kentner. On this occasion the exhibition of donated works *Works on Paper* was held in Vupertal, Germany, and later on in the Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery.

A set of Telesforas Valius graphic works was donated to the

museum.

One of the most important annual events that raised particular attention among Lithuanian art lovers was the exhibition of small-scale drawings by Joseph Beuys (1921–1986) from the brothers Van den Grinten collection of the Moyland Castle Museum.

The Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery held the exhibitions of Vance Kirkland's painting (USA); of Paul Ryan's paintings and sketches *Artist and His Secrets* (Great Britain); and of Worm Winther installation *Seven Deer in Kaunas* (Norway).

The Mykolas Žilinskas Gallery introduced the 20th century Swedish painting out of Stockholm city collections, and held the first international textile art biennial *Textile'97*.

The Kaunas Picture Gallery organised German artist Felix Droese's exhibition *Drawings and Objects*, and famous German neoexpressionist Sigmar Polke's exhibition *Music of Unknown Origin*.

The museum initiated a series of albums about M. K. Čiurlionis *Paintings. Sketches. Thoughts*. First publications in Lithuanian and English were issued.

An exhibition of Lithuanian folk sculpture and graphics was held in Bergen, Norway. The exhibition *Wooden Gods* was shown in Visby and Umea towns in Sweden.

In the museum the first documentary movie *Memories of the Little Artist* about artist Barbora Didžiokienė was created (director Linas Citvaras).

1998

The exhibition *Art Deco in Lithuania* was organised and its catalogue issued (compiler Giedrė Jankevičiūtė). On this occasion the scientific conference *Modernity and Identity. Art in 1918–1939* was held.

The Japanese Government made a grant for culture (50 000 000 ¥), which comprised audio and video recording, editing and screening equipment. In 1999 it was installed in the Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery.

The Kaunas Picture Gallery held several exhibitions to introduce German contemporary art, namely Heinz Hermann Jurczek's painting (Dusseldorf); Rolf Nickel's *Measuring and Service Devices*; and Paul Uwe Dreyer's graphics. In collaboration with the Hungarian Culture and Science Institute, a huge exhibition of contemporary Hungarian artist Istvan Nadler was displayed.

On the occasion of the Norwegian royal visit by King Harald and Queen Sonja, the Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery held an exhibition of contemporary Norwegian art from Bergen.

In cooperation with foreign colleagues, significant museum collections were shown, namely Eduard Wiiralt's (1898–1954) graphics from the Tartu Art Museum collections; and *Kuronian Spit in the Paintings of Nida Artists* from the Lüneburg East Prussian Museum collections.

In collaboration with the German Institute IFA, the Mykolas Žilinskas Gallery exposed two exhibitions: *Otto Dix. Critical Graphics 1920–1924*, and *Max Ernst. Book Graphics*.

A more intense cooperation began with the international cultural exchange foundation *Stiftelsen 3,14* (Bergen, Norway). The Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery organised exhibitions prepared by the foundation, namely Dogu Bankov's memorial exhibition; Gøran Ohldieck's exhibition (Norway); Paul Ryan's drawings and paintings (Great Britain); and Sigrid Szetu's pastels (Norway).

The geography of introducing Čiurlionis' works began to expand resulting in a huge exhibition *The World like a Big Symphony. Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis (1875–1911)* that was organised in the *Wallraf-Richartz-Museum* in Köln, Germany.

The Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery and the M. K. Čiurlionis Art Museum once again were visited by the Norwegian King Harald and Queen Sonja.

The exhibition *Our Flags (1918–1940)* was held in Oslo and Bergen, Norway.

1999

On 16 February, the Lithuanian contemporary art exhibition *Break Generation and its Teachers. Kaunas Art Life* was opened along with the display of Lithuanian exile art, and the Jurgis Mačiūnas' *fluxus* cabinet.

The Kaunas Conservation and Restoration Institute assigned to the museum a large collection of Kaunas archaeological ceramics (14th–19th c.).

For the first time the exhibition *...Avec Privilege du Roy* presented an impressive graphic collection of the museum,

namely the 17th–to early 19th centuries French graphics; the exhibition catalogue was issued (compiled by Tadas Stelmokas).

In the museum exhibited the second international textile art exhibition *Line*; the exhibition *Three Dimensions. Contemporary Swedish Textile*; the exhibition *Red Paintings 1997–1999. For Commemoration of George Wittenborn* that widely introduced the painting of the museum's friend and benefactor Eva Maria Schoofs- Kentner; and the exhibition 'Taiwan Views in Ink Painting' (Taipei, Republic of China).

The album of Lithuanian numismatics *Lithuanian Small Historic Monuments* was issued (compilers Janina Abdulskytė, Stanislovas Sajauskas, Rūta Verkelienė).

The club *Gallery's cinema* where world-wide and Lithuanian film masterpieces had been screened on weekends (headed by Linas Citvaras) was opened in the Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery.

Čiurlionis' works were exposed in various exhibitions in Montreal, Barcelona and Madrid.

2000

The museum was enriched by two considerable donations. Specifically, Antanas Rūkštelė (Florida, USA) donated a collection of silver of the President Antanas Smetona family, and the Japanese and Lithuanian Graphic Design Associations donated a collection of the 20th century Japanese posters *World Heritage*.

By commemorating the 125th M. K. Čiurlionis' birth anniversary

the museum displayed a unique exhibition *Čiurlionis Still Unknown. Čiurlionis and Photography*. For the first time Čiurlionis was presented as photographer.

The M. K. Čiurlionis Museum, together with the Italian Institute of Culture organised Carlo Carra's (1881–1966) exhibition *From Avant-garde to Myth*.

In cooperation with the *Musée Nicéphore Niépce*, the Mykolas Žilinskas Gallery exposed the widely popular exhibition of count Benediktas Tiškevičius' (1852–1935) photography *Red Manor Ghosts*, and of John Batho *Present and Absent*.

In collaboration with the Hungarian Culture and Science Centre (Helsinki), the museum held exhibitions of Victor Vasarely's (1908–1997) painting, graphics and tapestry, and of Hungarian contemporary photographer Peter Korniss *Inventory. Transylvanian Pictures*.

The 125th M. K. Čiurlionis' anniversary was commemorated in an innovative manner by organising an international contemporary art project with participation of artists from Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, France, Germany, Italy and Canada. In addition, exhibitions were held in the Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery and the Kaunas Picture Gallery. An international conference was convened. Participants of the project were well-known young and elderly artists, both recognised in their own countries and worldwide. Among them, Russian artist Oleg Kulik (participant of Venetian Biennial), Katarzyna Kozyra (participant of Venetian Biennial), Canadian/Ukrainian artist Taras Polataiko who was mentioned in the magazine *Art in America* as one of the ten most interesting American artists, Pawel Althamer

(participant of *Documenta* in Kassel), Artur Klinow from Belarus (participant of the exhibition *After the Wall* in Stockholm) and others.

The most scandalous, numerous visited and controversially commented exhibition of the famous American artist Andres Serrano *Placing Time and Evil* was held at the end of the year at the Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery.

Čiurlionis' works were shown in international exhibitions in Barcelona, Bordeaux, Nantes and Venice.

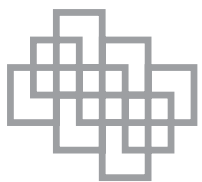
The *Musée d'Orsay* in Paris organised the M. K. Čiurlionis' retrospective exhibition which showed 97 works. In 2001 it was moved to the Grenoble Museum.

The museum was visited by the Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus.

The compact disc (CD-ROM) *M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art* was released for the first time in Lithuanian museums.

The catalogue of Lithuanian folk art *Prieverpstės* (compiled by Gražina Daunienė) was issued.

The Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery opened the Contemporary Art Information Centre *ŠMIC*, the objective of which was to publicly introduce contemporary art and compile database about modern-day Lithuanian and worldwide artists (headed by Kristina Martinkevičienė).



2001–2010

2001

The museum mentioned its 80th anniversary. On this occasion in November, a memorial museum of sculptor Juozas Zikaras was opened and the exhibition *Signs of Cultural Exchange* was held.

The reconstruction of the M. K. Čiurlionis gallery began.

Through Gøran Ohldieck the museum received a collection of Dogu Bankov's works.

Collaborating with the Lithuanian-German society *Überfahr* the exhibitions of Japanese artist Ay-O and of international symposium graphic works *On the Limit* were organised. The well-known Japanese artist, a follower of Fluxus, Ay-O constructed the installation *Black Hole* in memento to Jurgis Mačiūnas.

With the assistance of the cultural exchange foundation *Stiftelsen 3,14* (Bergen, Norway) the exhibition of French artists Vincent Dezeuze and Raphael Mognetti *Made in Kaunas* was organised.

An international mail art campaign dedicated to Jurgis Mačiūnas was announced and the exhibition *Fluxus Mail Art* was installed in the Fluxus cabinet.

The Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery held a large exhibition of

German artist Günter Uecker *The Tortured Human* (coordinated by IFA, Germany).

The international textile exhibition *Soft World* that later on turned into traditional event was displayed at the Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery and the Kaunas Picture Gallery.

The exhibition *Figurazioni Ideali. M. K. Čiurlionis. Alberto Martini. Albert Trachsel* was arranged in the *Museo Villa dei Cedri* in Belincona, Switzerland.

The Warsaw National Museum hosted the exhibition *M. K. Čiurlionis. Works. Personality. Surroundings*. Later it was moved to the Poznan National Museum.

On 26 June, the Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery was visited by Tibetan spiritual leader, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama.

2002

The museum received a donation from the Chicago Čiurlionis Gallery. The donated collection of 400 pieces was exclusive. It comprised works of Lithuanian exile artists compiled throughout many decades. On this occasion on 16 February, the exhibition *Chicago – Kaunas. Return of the Gallery* was opened.

The cultural exchange foundation *Stiftelsen 3,14* arranged several exhibitions, namely of English painter Mark Thompson, of Hungarian constructivist painting from Hungarian museums collections, and of Chinese painter Feng Zhengjie.

In the Kaunas Picture Gallery Japanese Fluxus artist Takako Saito created installations *Manomano Theatre, You+ Me Shop*, and showed a memorable performance *George, Can You Hear Me?* (organised with the society *Überfahrt*).

The year ended with the retrospective (1980–2002) exhibition of Estonian artist Leonhard Lapin *Art and Architectonics* arranged together with the Tartu Art Museum.

2003

On 1 July, the reconstructed M. K. Čiurlionis Gallery was reopened.

For the first time in Lithuania the contemporary Cuban art was introduced in the exhibition *Cuba – with Eyes of Stone and Water*.

In collaboration with the Janus Pannonius Museum, (Pecs, Hungary), and the Hungarian Culture and Science Centre (Tallinn, Estonia), the M. K. Čiurlionis Art Museum hosted an exhibition of Zsolnay's factory ceramics.

In cooperation with the British Council, the exhibition of colour photography pioneer Madame Yevonde (1893–1975) *Be Original or Die* was organised.

In the Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery the 4th international textile exhibition *Right and Reverse Sides* was organized.

Nineteen of M. K. Čiurlionis' works were exposed in the exhibition *Musical Analogies. Kandinsky and his Contemporaries* in the *Thyssen-Bornemisza* museum in Madrid.

Twelve of M. K. Čiurlionis' works were displayed in the exhibition *The Origins of Abstraction* in the *Musée d'Orsay* in Paris.

The exhibition *Unseen and Unknown Domicelė Tarabildienė* was held in the *Stiftelsen 3,14* Gallery in Bergen, Norway.

2004

The New York painter Elena Urbaitytė-Urbaitis bequeathed to the museum a part of her rich creative heritage.

Kaunas town was overwhelmed by French beauty and lightness thanks to the project *Babyl-on Tour* with participation of artists, actors, writers, musicians and dancers from the south of France.

A partner of cultural exchange, the International Service s. r. l. (Turin, Italy), introduced to the Lithuanian public the exhibition of Ugo Nespolo *Workshop without Secrets* (Italy).

In collaboration with the foundation *Stiftelsen 3,14*, the Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery arranged the exhibitions of Paul Hodgson's photography *The Only Path* (Great Britain); Fred Ivar Utsi Klemetsen's photography *Frost* (Norway); and Pippa Skotnes' works *Lamb of God* (South African Republic).

In M. K. Čiurlionis Museum of Art several exhibitions, among them Pranas Gailius' unique book graphic works *Out of Lithuanian Thoughts and Words* (France); *Lithuanian Jewish Cultural Heritage. Synagogues and Tombstone Monuments*; and *The Alchemist of Stage* for Liudas Truikys' 100th birth anniversary were arranged.

When commemorating Mykolas Žilinskas' 100th birth anniversary, the exhibition of the art donator's collection *A Gift to the Youth City. New Discoveries* was arranged.

The Ceramics Museum hosted the exhibition *Japanese Traditional Ceramics* which broke all records of attendance; with the help of police guards, the exhibition was visited by 2 500 visitors in 16 days (organised by the Japanese Foundation and the Japanese Embassy in Lithuania).

The Foreign Art Museum in Riga held the exhibition of folk art collection from M. K. Čiurlionis Museum of Art *Traditional Cross-crafting in Lithuania*.

The Devils Museum initiated a musical cycle of dark arts Welnuwos.

2005

In March, under the decree of the President Valdas Adamkus, the building of former Kaunas Presidential Palace was passed to the disposition of the M. K. Čiurlionis Museum of Art. On 5 July the historical Lithuanian Presidential Palace opened its doors to the public inviting to the exhibition *The Returning Relics*.

On 28 May the museum signed a trilateral agreement with Prof. Algimantas Miškinis and Kaunas Municipality on the Miškinis' collection donation to Kaunas city and its display in the Kaunas Picture Gallery.

A large exhibition of paintings was introduced to the Lithuanian audience by the chairman of the foundation *Stiftelsen 3,14*, Norwegian artist Gøran Andreas Ohldieck *Paintings 1974–2004*.

The Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery held the exhibition *To the Sacred Discovery* out of the deceased priest Ričardas Mikutavičius' collection.

Among the most significant exhibitions of the year was *Rising on Own Wings. Latvian Art of the Early 20th Century* from the Riga State Art Museum collections, and Stasys Ušinskas' anniversary exhibition *Constructions of Voluntary Beauty*.

The 5th international textile exhibition, Kaunas Art Biennial *Textile 05*, was organised.

The exhibition *Visual Music 1905–2005* was held in the United States of America. The Modern Art Museum *MOMA* in Los Angeles showed three M. K. Čiurlionis' paintings. When the exhibition was moved to the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington D.C., two other Čiurlionis' paintings were exhibited.

On 16 February, Osvaldas Daugelis, Director of the M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art Museum, was awarded the Cross of the Knight of the Order of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas.

2006

The A. Žmuidzinaičius Museum of Art and Collections renewed the artist's memorial flat and studio, and arranged a new display of his paintings from the early 20th century.

Artist Saulutė Kisarauskiė donated to the museum her own works and those of her husband Vincas Kisaruskas.

The M. K. Čiurlionis Museum of Art introduced Liudvikas Strolis' anniversary exhibition *Maestro of Lithuanian Ceramics*.

In collaboration with the British Council, the origins of British graphics was introduced via exhibitions *As Is When. British Graphic Boom 1961–1972*, and *David Hockney. Words and Pictures. Four Print Portfolios 1961–1977*.

The Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery held the exhibition of the 19th century Japanese wooden carvings *The Legend of Prince Genji*, which was organised in cooperation with the Riga Foreign Art Museum and the foundation *Stiftelsen 3,14*. The Foundation also assisted in opening the exhibition of Norwegian contemporary textile, the exhibition of Michael Rothenstein's (1908–1993) graphic art, and the Cuban contemporary art project *Heartbeat*.

For the first time the Contemporary Art Centre in Vilnius and the Kaunas Picture Gallery held a joint exhibition of Vilnius and Kaunas artists *101.3 KM. Competition and Cooperation*.

The museum's collections travelled to Poland. The exhibition *Jan Buthak – Fotografik* was exposed in the Wrocław Gallery of Culture and Art, while the exhibition *Ancient Cross-crafting in Lithuania* was displayed in the National Ethnographic Museum in

Wrocław and Białystok.

Osvaldas Daugelis, Director of the M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art, was awarded the honourable Golden Cross for the merits in developing the cooperation between Lithuania and Poland.

On 22 March the museum was visited by the Belgian Queen Paola.

On 29 November the first and only museum of contemporary art for the blind in Lithuania was opened within the cellars of the Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery.

2007

Reconstruction of the main building of the M. K. Čiurlionis Museum of Art was started.

The museum acquired a collection of Elvyra Kairiūkštytė's graphics.

Among significant exhibitions where *The World According to Vytautas Ignas*; Robertas Antinis' Jr. installations *Anthropological Caves. Road; A Look to Modern World. Japanese Photography from the 1960's to present* (organised by the Japanese Foundation and the Japanese Embassy in Lithuania); and the exhibition from South Africa *Talking rubbish* (organised by the foundation *Stiftelsen 3,14*).

By tradition, the M. Žilinskas Art Gallery and the Kaunas Picture Gallery hosted the 6th international biennial *Textile 07*.

The historical Presidential Palace in Kaunas invited to the exhibition *World Scouting – 100*.

The museum's exhibits travelled to such exhibitions as *Marcé Katiliūtė. Pictures* (in the *Stiftelsen 3,14* gallery in Bergen); *Mstislav Dobuzhinsky: from Lithuania to America* (in the Moscow Gallery *Nashi Khudozhnik*); international exhibition *François-Xavier Fabre. Retrospective* in the Fabre Museum in Montpellier, France.

A retrospective exhibition of M. K. Čiurlionis' works *Čiurlionis. Painter of Music and Composer of Visual Art* was held in Denmark, the Gammel Holtegaard Museum in Copenhagen, and the *Nordjyllands Kunstmuseum* in Aalborg.

M. K. Čiurlionis' works were shown in the international exhibition *Eye-Music. Kandinsky, Klee and All That Jazz* at the Chichester Pallant House in the United Kingdom.

When commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, the Italian Presidential Palace *Quirinale* opened the exhibition *The Masterpieces of European Art*, which presented Čiurlionis' cycle of paintings *Sonata of the Stars, Allegro* and *Andante*.

On 2 February the Kaunas Picture Gallery opened a permanent display of Prof. Algimantas Miškinis' Lithuanian art collection donated to Kaunas city.

To commemorate the 132th M. K. Čiurlionis' anniversary, in collaboration with the company Bonarta a DVD *360° X 360°*, a virtual tour through the Čiurlionis Gallery, was released.

2008

A new library and digitalization centre of the M. K. Čiurlionis Museum was built (architect Gražina Janulytė-Bernotienė).

The M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art presented a formerly considered missing work *Andante* from the *Sonata of the Pyramids*, which was purchased in the Netherlands.

The cooperation with the Goethe Institute resulted in the exhibition of German contemporary photography *Depiction. Imagining*, and a large exhibition *Art Nouveau and Art Deco in the Netherlands. 50 Years of Design* from the collections of the Drenthe Museum in Assen, the Netherlands.

In collaboration with the Riga Foreign Art Museum the exhibition *Latvian Poster Art of the Early 20th Century* was held.

The Kaunas Picture Gallery organized Elvyra Kairiūkštytė's (1950–2006) exhibition *The Burning Proximity of Life*.

The historical Lithuanian Presidential Palace arranged the exhibition *White Gloves. Official and Unofficial Diplomacy in Kaunas 1918–1940*.

Based on the museum collection the exhibition *M. K. Čiurlionis and His Contemporaries* was arranged in the National Art Museum of Ukraine in Kiev.

2009

Collections of the M. K. Čiurlionis Museum of Art and other Lithuanian museums served for the exhibition *The Thread*

between Past and Present. Counts Tiškevičiai from Biržai and their Artistic Heritage.

An exhibition of Fluxus artist Ay-O, his colleagues from Japan, Jonas Mekas and other Lithuanian artists *Rain Meets the Sun* was organised by the society Überfahrt. After the exhibition, Ay-O donated to the museum several of his works.

The Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery held the exhibition *It Was Not Long Ago.... Lithuanian Posters created in 1918–1930.*

The 7th international contemporary textile art exhibition Kaunas Biennial *Textile 09* was organised.

One of the main emphases in the national program *Vilnius - European Capital of Culture 2009* was the international exhibition *Dialogues of Colours and Sounds. Works by Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis and His Contemporaries* at the National Gallery of Art in Vilnius.

In cooperation with the Science and Encyclopaedia Publishing Institute the museum issued one of its most luxurious publications *Treasures of the M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art. Painting.*

The M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art was awarded a prize of the Ministry of Culture for the best planned and implemented cultural education projects for children and youth.

2010

Jointly with the foundation *Stiftelsen 3,14*, the Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery arranged the exhibition *From Dahl to Dolk* (a private

collection of art collectors Annie and Birger Mowinckels).

Together with the Latvian National Museum, the Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery organised the exhibition *Everyday Chinese Life and Festivals during the Ching Dynasty (wooden carvings of the turn of the 20th century).*

Čiurlionis' works continued travelling through the exhibitions *M. K. Čiurlionis and Contemporaries* in the Estonian Art Museum KUMU in Tallinn; and *Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis. Esoteric Journey* at the Palazzo Reale in Milan.

Further Čiurlionis' works were exhibited in the exhibition *L'Europe des esprits ou la fascination pour l'occulte. 1750–1950* in the Modern and Contemporary Art Museum of Strasbourg.