Contents

Preface ix
Note on Transliteration xi
List of Abbreviations xiii
Introduction 1

ONE Vitebsk The Life of Art

1. The Life and Work of Yuri Moiseevich Pen 9
2. Marc Chagall, Commissar of Arts 20
3. Instructors and Studios 30
4. Vitebsk in the Life of El Lissitzky 57
5. The First Public Exhibition of Paintings by Local and Moscow Artists 69
6. On the New Systems in Art 73
7. Toward "The Utilitarian World of Things" 80
8. The First Anniversary of the Vitebsk People's Art School 88
9. Activities of the Future Unovis 92
Contents

10. Unovis Is Born 108
11. Unovis Miscellany Mo. 1 120
12. The Unovis Group Portrait 141
13. Chagall Leaves Vitebsk 145
14. The All-Russia Conference of Art Teachers and Students 148
15. Unovis Emerges onto the National Scene 154
16. The Origin of El Lissitzky’s “Prouns” 164
17. The Artist David Yakerson 169
18. Vitebsk in the Career of Kazimir Malevich 184
19. Unovis and Its Activities 198
20. The Vitebsk Museum of Contemporary Art 225
21. Robert Falk and His Vitebsk Students 231
22. Pen and His Students in the Early 1920s 238
23. The Activities of the I. L. Perets Society 243

Two Performing Arts in Vitebsk

24. Theater in Vitebsk 251
25. Musical Vitebsk 268

THREE Bakhtill

26. Bakhtin and His Circle in Vitebsk 285
27. Bakhtin’s Vitebsk Years 303

Appendix: Students at the Vitebsk School of Art 317

Notes 325

Selected Bibliography 377

Index 381

Plates follow page 144