

Iosif Keber – Landmark of Romanian Spirituality

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Abstract

In his lengthy career as a church painter, Keber painted many churches in the neo-Byzantine style, both in his home country and abroad, contributing substantially to the national cultural heritage. He never once started a project before undergoing a long process of research and sketches in relation to the architecture of the place where his work had to be transposed. His solemnity and passion for mural / monumental painting can be observed in the exceptional monumental painting projects, displayed in the “Iosif Keber” Museum Memorial House. However, the painter’s great passion in easel painting remained the landscape, which he regarded as a sacred place of God’s creation for people and living beings, yet also as a place where people marked their existence by building the idyllic world of the village, or of cosmopolitan cities. Keber was particularly dedicated to rural and urban landscapes, which he conceived while having no other orders, or in the cold season. Some of them were created right from the window of his house in Târgu Jiu, from where he had a panorama with a great perspective on the old fair. The most beloved themes fit into the urban and rural landscape that the artist pictorially poetizes, with hidden emotion and aesthetic pleasure, thus granting artistic expression. The Winter season is a favorite when choosing landscape themes, Keber being a true craftsman of the pictorial nuances of white he lays, sometimes deaf and icy, at other times loaded with colorful pictorial material (Yard, Winter in the village, Winter in Târgu Jiu).