

Worker and Kolkhoz Woman

"Kolkhoznitsa" for the Russian word denoting a female collective-farm worker.

Worker and Kolkhoz Woman ([Russian](#): Рабо́чий и колхо́зница)



Artist [Vera Mukhina](#)

Year 1937

Type [stainless steel](#)

Dimensions 2400 cm (940 in)

Location [Russian Exhibition Centre, Moscow](#)

Worker and Kolkhoz Woman ([Russian](#): Рабо́чий и колхо́зница *Rabochiy i Kolkhoznitsa*) is a famous landmark of monumental art, "*the ideal and symbol of the Soviet epoch*", that represents a dynamic [sculpture](#) group of two figures with a [sickle and a hammer](#) raised over their heads (☪). It is 24.5 meters (78 feet) high, made from [stainless steel](#) by [Vera Mukhina](#) for the [1937 World's Fair](#) in [Paris](#), and subsequently moved to [Moscow](#). The sculpture is an example of the [socialist realistic](#) style, as well as [Art Deco](#) style. The worker holds aloft a hammer and the [kolkhoz](#) woman a sickle to form the [hammer and sickle](#) symbol.

History

The sculpture was originally created to crown the Soviet pavilion (architect: [Boris Iofan](#)) of the World's Fair. The organizers had placed the Soviet and German pavilions facing each other across the main pedestrian boulevard at the [Trocadéro](#) on the north bank of the Seine.

Mukhina was inspired by her study of the classical *Harmodius and Aristogeiton*, the *Victory of Samothrace* and *La Marseillaise*, [François Rude](#)'s sculptural group for the [Arc de Triomphe](#), to bring a monumental composition of socialist realist confidence to the heart of Paris. The symbolism of the two figures striding from East to West, as determined by the layout of the pavilion, was also not lost on the spectators.

Although as Mukhina said, her sculpture was intended "to continue the idea inherent in the building, and this sculpture was to be an inseparable part of the whole structure", after the fair the *Worker and Kolkhoz Woman* was relocated to [Moscow](#) where it was placed just outside the [Exhibition of Achievements of the People's Economy](#).

In 1941, the sculpture earned Mukhina one of the initial batch of [Stalin Prizes](#).

The sculpture was removed for restoration in autumn of 2003 in preparation for [Expo 2010](#). The original plan was for it to return in 2005, but because the [World's Fair](#) was not awarded to [Moscow](#) but to [Shanghai](#), the restoration process was hampered by financial problems and re-installation was delayed.

It finally returned to its place at [VDNKh](#) on November 28, 2009. The revealing of the restored monument was held on the evening of December 4th, 2009, accompanied by fireworks. The restored statue uses a new pavilion as its pedestal, increasing its total height from 34.5 meters (the old pedestal was 10 meters tall) to 60 meters (the new pavilion is 34.5 meters tall plus 24.5 meters of the statue's own height).

Use in media

In Soviet cinema, *Worker and Kolkhoz Woman* was chosen in 1947 to serve as the logo for the [film studio Mosfilm](#). It can be seen in the opening credits of the film *Red Heat*, as well as many of the Russian films released by the [Mosfilm](#) studio itself.

In the 1997 film *The Saint* Treitiak uses a variation of The Worker and Kolkhoz woman holding a sword on campaign posters.

In the 2010 film *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1*, once the [Ministry of Magic](#) is taken over by [Lord Voldemort](#)'s [Death Eaters](#), a statue is placed in the Ministry Atrium depicting the new Ministry agenda: stone [Muggles](#) being squashed trying to hold up a tall column inscribed with the words "MAGIC IS MIGHT", and two large stone wizards, one male and one female, in a similar pose to this statue, holding their wands up.

Gallery



Soviet Union's pavilion stands against the pavilion of Third Reich, the country's usual rival



Worker and Kolkhoz Woman was among achievements of the 20th century in the arts to be commemorated in Russian stamps in 2000 (depicted with [Tatlin's Tower](#))