



ALEXANDER KUSHNER

KONSTANTIN RUDAKOV, GIORGIONE

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The work of the Russian illustrator
Rudakov and the poetics of Giorgione
read by a major twentieth-century poet

One of the greatest Russian poets of our times draws a masterly and highly unlikely comparison between Giorgione's adorable women and Rudakov's irreverent female figures. On the one hand, the eclectic activity of the Soviet poet and his double stylistic register: between compliance with the dictates of censorship (as in the portrait of Lenin and in the illustrations to Tolstoy's and Turgenev's great novels) and licentious satire, directed, with the consent of authorities, at the Western middle class. On the other, the intense lyricism, albeit devoid of erotic charge, of the nudes that inhabit the Venetian master's immense and refined canvas.

A major twentieth-century lyric poet, **Alexander Kushner** taught Russian Literature and Language at the University of St. Petersburg. Joseph Brodsky said about him: "His name is to stand among those dear to the heart of every native speaker of Russian"..

