Назва музея

Адрас

месца, дата

To Whom It May Concern

Not so long ago, while visiting the museum, I paid attention to the works by Ossip Zadkine, the world-known sculptor and painter born in Belarus. I was extremely disappointed that the museum shields attribute him as “born in Russia” or “Russian”. It is not true. Ossip Zadkine has never been to the territory of modern Russia.

I am Belarusian and I know that Ossip Zadkine, a French artist of Belarusian origin, was born on January 28, 1888, in Vitsebsk in Belarus. It was temporarily the territory of the Russian Empire. The artist’s entire family also comes from Belarus. Ossip (or Vosip) had 5 brothers and sisters. His father, Aharon Tsadkin, came from an orthodox Jewish family. The sculptor's mother, Freuda-Tsippa, became a victim of the Holocaust, she died during World War II and was buried in a common grave.

The archives show that Yosel-Shmuila Tsadkin (full name of the artist) was of the Jewish faith, he graduated from a local school and then studied at the Vitsebsk Technical School till 1904. It was there that he learned professional woodworking, the craft he needed for his future career as a sculptor. There he studied for two years in the same class with future artists Marc Chagall and Victor Meckler.

Ossip Zadkine is best known as a sculptor, but he also created paintings and lithographs. He named the painter from Vitsebsk, Yudel Pen, his first art teacher.

After studying in Vitsebsk, when the boy was 15, his father sent Zadkine to Sunderland in Scotland, where his mother's cousin John Lester lived. Then the future artist moved to London and attended classes at Regent Street Polytechnic. In the summer of 1908, Zadkine returned to Belarus, to Vitsebsk, but then again went to London. He came to Belarus several more times, until 1911.

In 1910, Zadkine settled in Paris, he lived and worked in the *La Roche* artist residence. There he joined the Cubist movement and later developed his own style. And still he continued visiting his homeland during the summer months. When the First World War began, the sculptor was completely cut off from Belarus by the combat fronts. But documents testify that he actively continued correspondence with relatives, friends, and teachers in Belarus. In the archives, in particular, there are his letters to Yudel Pen written in 1916.

In 1921, Ossip Zadkine received French citizenship. He spent World War II in the USA.

Until 1958, he taught sculpture at the Académie de la Grand Chaumière. Zadkine died in Paris in 1967 at the age of 79 and was buried in Montparnasse Cemetery.

Therefore, it is fair to call Ossip Zadkine a French artist, but also a Belarusian one, because he was born and studied, and made his first steps into art in Belarus. In Vitsebsk, he received the craft specialty, which came in handy in his further work and began professional art education in Yudel Pen’s workshop.

Thank you for reading this message. I hope that my letter will initiate the first (or next) step towards the fair attribution of Ossip Zadkine and other Belarus-born artists in the (назва музея) museum and everywhere in the world.

I will be glad to receive an answer to my proposal.

Sincerely yours,

імя, прозвішча