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PIROSMANI, 9:30

This film by Georgy Shengelaya was a surprise hit at the 1973 London Film Festival: its subject is the great Georgian primitive artist Niko Pirosmanishvili, whose work was done before 1920. The film avoids the usual clichés of films about artists' lives: using color control and a visual style based on the painter's techniques. Avtandi Varazi plays the gentle, uncompromising artist who sold his paintings to bars and restaurants for food and drink, and worked mostly in solitude. (1971, 85 mins, color, 35mm)

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