

## Conquerors of the Sun. Solo exhibition by Gosha Ostretsov

22.10 – 19.11.2019



Conquerors of the Sun are the heroes of the new myth created by Gosha Ostretsov. The exhibition at GUM-Red-Line displays a visual representation of a unique world with its own people, ecosystem, and technologies that was conceived by the artist.

A hundred years after the premiere of the Russian futurist opera *Victory over the Sun*, Ostretsov – a man of the epoch that was once envisioned by the Futurists – creates a personal epic that goes against common sense. Inspired by the classic Greek and Roman myths, the artist redefines the Avant-Garde theme of surmounting the established order.

By interpreting the names of the eight planets that constitute the Solar System, Gosha Ostretsov establishes an alternative prehistoric timeline where anthropomorphized heroes bearing the names of the main planets are battling against the Sun – a symbolic Medusa the Gorgon who defends the passageways to other spaces and timelines. The Sun represents the axle which holds in place the fundamental order and acts as a guarantee of the main laws of physics. Just like Medusa the Gorgon, it emits deadly rays that force everything in its path to be bound by the established system. Medusa's gaze turned the eight heroes who wished to transcend the Great Sun and pass beyond the border that it guards into stony planets. With the passage of time, the heroes were deformed and transformed into round spheres. However, their life energy has not been completely drained and gave life to a new world of micro-heroes on one of the planets – humanity. Humans, just as Perseus, are trying to triumph over Medusa and invent a superweapon that will help them master the energy of the Sun, revive the petrified heroes, and go beyond the borders of the Solar System. The attempts of humanity to attain fusion power as of yet did not bear fruit. Humans have only learned to destroy and, thus, have followed in the footsteps of the Sun. Still, the artist's myth envisions a new epoch during which humanity will be able to recreate the power of the Sun and surmount all borders.

The mythmaking of Gosha Ostretsov synthesizes the heritage of Russian Avant-Garde and science fiction in the artist's signature manner. The myth, inspired by ancient epics, incorporates images action comics, blasters, and well-dressed hotties. The artist presents the Sun/Medusa the Gorgon as a dominating force holding its subjects in chains. The Futuristic creation of Ostretsov is a classic narrative of a Utopia where new superhumans desire to change the established order.

Text: Elizaveta Shagina

The exhibition is part of the Parallel Program of the Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art.

## About the Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art:

The Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art is one of the main projects promoting contemporary culture in Russia. The Biennale was established and is organized with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation since 2005. 2016 saw the complete overhaul of the project: the Moscow Biennale Expert Committee was created, the new committee is responsible for all creative decisions. The main project of the 8th Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art will be presented at the State Tretyakov Gallery from October 31, 2019 to January 22, 2020. For the first time ever, the Moscow Biennale will be partnered with the international institution Albertina (Vienna, Austria).

## About the Gallery:

GUM-Red-Line Gallery occupies a space of 280 SM in the front of GUM. Its windows exit onto the Red Square. Besides the spectacular architecture of Alexander Pomerantsev, these halls bear an extraordinary historical heritage – this is the actual location of the Henry Brocard Gallery that was opened right here in 1893. The exhibitions hosted by Brocard, a notable Moscow perfume magnate and collector, were presented here for almost ten years and turned GUM – at the time known as the Upper Trading Rows – from a prestigious shopping center into one of the most popular leisure venues for Muscovites. The concerts and artistic soirées that were held here became quite popular and gave a boost to the prestige of the shopping center. Contemporary art found its place in the Soviet GUM as well – Vladimir Mayakovsky and Alexander Rodchenko managed the department store's advertisement campaigns at the beginning of the 1920s.



While maintaining the legacy of the past, GUM-Red-Line Gallery is seen as the starting point for the cultivation of a new cultural space, where GUM customers can get an insight into contemporary art.

GUM is not only the department store No. 1 for Muscovites, but it is also an essential landmark for visiting tourists: GUM annually receives more than 30 million people. It is an architectural monument and at the same time a comfortable space, an art gallery, and an event venue.

**The Gallery, located on the Third Floor, First Line, is open every day, from 10 till 22.**

**Contact info: [info@gum-red-line.ru](mailto:info@gum-red-line.ru), +7 (495) 620-33-89**

Anna Svergun, Natalia Vorobyeva, Anton Mirimanov  
8 (905) 544-18-83 | 8 (916) 609-41-15 | [artpr@svergun.ru](mailto:artpr@svergun.ru) | [a.svergun@gmail.com](mailto:a.svergun@gmail.com)

**[www.gum-red-line.ru](http://www.gum-red-line.ru)**