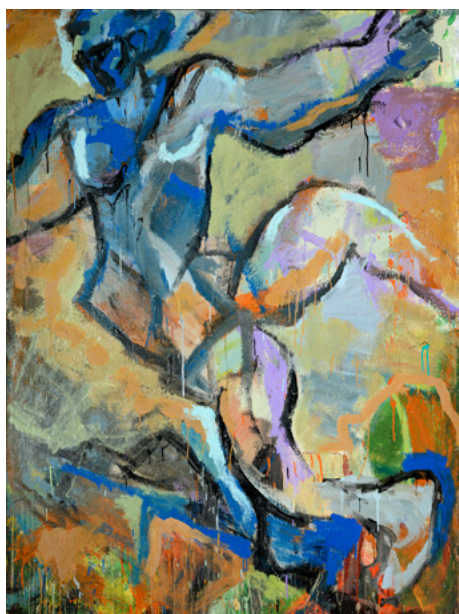


## Nikolay Filatov. Polovtsian Dances

09.09 – 25.10.2020



**GUM-Red-Line Gallery is hosting the solo exhibition of Nikolay Filatov in September–October 2020. The artist creates monumental painting in the neoexpressionist style. His works are distinguished by expressivity and constructivism elements – symbols of the monumental archetype of avant-garde ideas in Russian culture. Russian cosmism, futurism, communism are presented as a single holistic image where the whole is valued more than the sum of its parts.**

By thus titling the exhibition, the artist allows us to engage with a whole range of aesthetic and historical allusions that offer solutions for understanding both his newer works and his style in general.

Nikolay Filatov notes that his art is as wild, ancient, and fierce as Polovtsian Dances. We affirm: Nikolay Filatov is a Russian master, an artist speaking in the language of avant-garde. (the role of classics)

Nikolay Filatov notes that he always wanted to be “white and fluffy” as an artist, and yet he was always unable to do so. What he can do is to be as grandiose, noisy, and frightening as Polovtsian Dances. We affirm: Nikolay Filatov as an artist is a person who can personify the great spirit of many people, epochs, and territories associated with Eurasian culture. This is amply proven by the beating pulse of his paintings. (the role of the avant-garde)

Nikolay Filatov notes that the energy for his paintings comes from childhood fears of the limitless, aesthetically strange reality into which a new little human has to incorporate himself. We affirm: rarely can we experience a master whose abstract language is as thoroughly felt and motivated as the artistic choices of the first wave of Russian avant-garde. (the role of Russia)

Nikolay Filatov notes that being an artist requires one to hold great responsibility. One has to be sincere in the face of one’s talent and sufficiently courageous to use one’s artistic language to express everything that an artist, as a member of society who is able to do and see more than the people around him, must express. We affirm: the art and objects by Nikolay Filatov are the benchmarks of freedom, naturalness, and happiness for Russian and international art. (the role of people)

Basic elements of avant-garde and a contemporary artistic language are the defining features of Nikolay Filatov’s art. His pieces are effectively large-scale in the Michelangelo mold, forcefully and stridently entering humanity’s existence and evidently ill-suited to the limitations of what is considered the norm.

The bright and distinct selection of paintings by Nikolay Filatov plays around with numerous colors and naturally combines profound culture and a lively expressive temperament. Tonal intensity is very much dependent on the creative period from which the works hail. Pieces range from contrasting combinations of oversaturated basic colors to more reserved and complex ruminations on the hues of the European rainbow. In his current creative period, Nikolay Filatov has enhanced the color palette by engaging in a dialogue between the subtle pastel backgrounds and the more assured colors of objects and subjects from the main composition. His color range is genuinely one of the richest among all contemporary artists.

Dancing figures appear in all periods of Nikolay Filatov's creative work: they can be cubic and futuristic, expressively break apart into emotional brushstrokes, or, as is evident from contemporary pieces, paradoxically reveal depictions of human bodies presented in the style of antiquity while still reminding us of the subdued avant-garde dimensionality of the familiar Nikolay Filatov aesthetic.

### **Nikolay Filatov Bio:**

Born in 1951 in Lvov. Graduated from the Lvov State Institute of Applied and Decorative Art (1977). In 1980-1981 studied at the Moscow State Academy of Arts and Industry. Since 1984 - a member of the Moscow branch of the Artists' Union. In 1984 Nikolay Filatov together with Andrei Roiter and German Vinogradov established in a vacated kindergarten a unique Moscow underground artistic organization - Kindergarten, a community of like-minded people and an art squat. This place provided space for independent artists to engage with one another, as well as exhibit and store their art pieces. Surviving until 1986, Kindergarten was a legendary meeting place for many representatives of the avant-garde movement. Nikolay Filatov, as the creator of the movement's ideology, did not strive to discover the "right" way of pushing forward avant-garde, but of displaying tolerance to any creative activities. Kindergarten was founded on the principles of freedom and diversity, which demand interaction between all art forms and ideas. Kindergarten provided an environment for open discussion, and it represented a conscious refusal to find the best position for the movement in the art world, as well as a lack of desire to follow the intellectual mainstream. Nikolay Filatov's art embodies these notions as well. The artist is on a journey of self-discovery; he does not fear that others will find something traditional in his work. Solo exhibitions of Nikolay Filatov were held at the Stella Art Gallery, Moscow (2006), Atelier Karas Gallery, Kiev, Ukraine (2004), Central House of Artists, Moscow (2003), Nancy Campbell & Hans Haacke, Stor, New York, USA (1992, 1993), 100 Profsoyuznaya St. Exhibition Hall, Moscow (1987), Apartment Exhibition at 28 Malaya Gruzinskaya, Moscow (1978). Filatov took part in many group exhibitions at such venues, as the ART4.RU Contemporary Art Museum, Moscow (2016), National Center for Contemporary Arts, Moscow (2005), Shchusev State Museum of Architecture, Moscow (2004), State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow (2003), Documenta-Halle, Kassel, Germany (1995), John Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA (1992), Galleria Comunale d'Arte Moderna, Bologna, Italy (1992), first exhibition of the Avant-Gardist Club, Proletarsky District Exhibition Hall on Vostochnaya St., Moscow (1987). Pieces by Nikolay Filatov can be seen at the Ludwig Museum, Cologne (Germany), The Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum, New Brunswick (USA), State Tretyakov Gallery (Moscow), State Russian Museum (Saint Petersburg).

### **About the Gallery:**

GUM-Red-Line Gallery occupies a space of 280 SM in the front of GUM. Its windows exit onto Red Square. Besides the spectacular architecture created by Alexander Pomerantsev, these halls bear an extraordinary historical heritage. This is the actual location of the Henri Brocard Gallery that was opened right here in 1893. Henri Brocard was a famous Moscow perfumer and collector. While maintaining the legacy of the past, GUM-Red-Line Gallery is seen as a starting point for the cultivation of a new cultural space, where GUM customers can get an insight into contemporary art.

**The Gallery, located on the Third Floor, First Line at GUM, is open to visitors every day, 10 to 22.**

**Additional info: [info@gum-red-line.ru](mailto:info@gum-red-line.ru)**



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