

Nikolay Polissky Solo Exhibition to Open at GUM-Red-Line Gallery on July 21

21.07 – 12.09.2021



GUM-Red-Line Gallery presents Russian Antiquity – the solo exhibition of Nikolay Polissky, founder of the Nikola-Lenivets Crafts and the Archstoyanie Festival, pioneer of Russian land art. The exposition of the artist’s first solo exhibition in Moscow includes wooden sculptures through which Polissky reinterprets the heritage of antiquity. The exhibition runs through September 12.

The project is curated by Anton Kochurkin and produced by Julia Bychkova and Ivan Polissky.

The exposition unifies two layers of meaning: terrestrial landscape and celestial landscape. The first layer is the foundation, rooted in the creative genius of Nikolay Polissky and his group of rural workers-turned-artists that creates art pieces under his leadership. This layer reflects the main idea of Archstoyanie Festival, linking contemporary art and architecture with traditional material and spiritual culture. This section of the exposition is represented by wooden sculptures created by Nikolay Polissky and Nikola-Lenivets

Crafts – Russian Antiquity. The series references classical architecture forms lying in ruins. The selection of items made from hazel wood in the spirit of classical architecture and sculpture reinvents the very notion of antiquity itself, as though antiquity was established in Russian villages. Foregoing marble and gypsum molds, Polissky and his coauthors create columns, bases, and architraves from the wooden materials that are especially plentiful in the forests surrounding Nikola-Lenivets Village.

The Russian Antiquity series develops the tradition that formed in the first few years of Nikolay Polissky and his art team working in Nikola-Lenivets. Since 2000, the artists reinterpret architectural “brands”: in 2000, they created the Mesopotamian Ziggurat from hay; the Aqueduct made from snow followed in 2001; the citadel-like Firewood Tower was built in 2002; the Media Tower dates back to 2003, etc. As Nikolay Polissky notes, “2020-2021 is the time to return to the very beginning, to find ample nourishment in antique art that set the principles and basics of all subsequent urban development.”

The second layer of the exposition is the immaterial, transcendent. It is the layer of energy, creativity, and development that occur in Nikola-Lenivets: Archstoyanie Festival, New Media Night, Archstoyanie for Children, and many other events of various scope that frequently just happen and do not leave any material trace or monuments upon completion. This layer is represented by various media. The media projects of Archstoyanie include performance art pieces, video films, art projects that were documented over the 15 years of Archstoyanie. Many of the materials will be highlighted at the exposition for the first time ever, including the 33-hour performance art piece by German artist Mark Formanek, as well as several previously unreleased documentary films about Archstoyanie.

This dualist model reveals the entire range of processes and changes that happen in Nikola-Lenivets, presents the full scope of artistic statements that establish a rich contemporary art context around the small village.

Another joint project by GUM-Red-Line Gallery and Archstoyanie Festival runs on Red Square, right in front of GUM through August 31: the Red Garden Public Art Festival. The exposition is represented by a garden of sculptures created by famous Russian artists: Nikolay Polissky, Aristarkh Chernyshev, Rinat Voligamsi, Roman Ermakov, Dmitri Aske, Dmitry Zhukov, Andrey Filippov, Vasilisa Prokopchuk, and Evgeny Bragin. The main theme of the exhibition, featuring the Column from Nikolay Polissky's Russian Antiquity series, is based on the idea of uniting the "city" and the "forest": artificial and natural environments, civilization and nature, classical culture and contemporaneity.

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



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