

GUM-Red-Line Gallery Showcases Artworks by the Saint Petersburg Underground Group “Engineers of Art” for the First Time Ever in Moscow

16.09 – 20.11.2021



GUM-Red-Line Gallery presents the exhibition “Engineers of Art: Far-Off Balance” – a retrospective of “Engineers of Art” School, one of the most phenomenal Saint Petersburg underground art movements that still remains practically unknown in Moscow. The exhibition runs from September 17 to November 20.

Nikolai Margiev and Ekaterina Iushkevich are the curators of the exhibition.

“Engineers of Art” School was established in 1989. Its members include Inal Savchenkov, Franz Rodwalt, Sergey En’kov, Grigory Strelnikov, and Vladislav Balakleysky.

“Engineers of Art” are directly linked to the history of Saint Petersburg underground art: their paintings were showcased at the projects of the “New Artists”; members of the group were a part of the first techno raves in Russia; the “Engineers” participated in live performances by Sergey Kuryokhin’s Pop-Mechanica. Members of the art group continue to work together and join forces with other artists and projects. The “Engineers” hold exhibitions in Russia and abroad. Inal Savchenkov, one of the founders of the art group, is currently experimenting with new painting methods. His younger

brother Sergey En’kov collaborates on large-scale projects with Russian theatres and museums, including the Bolshoi Theatre and the Manege Exhibition Hall. Franz Rodwalt, based in Berlin, works as a sculptor and designer with renowned Hollywood directors, including the Wachowskis, Quentin Tarantino, Wes Anderson, Terry Gilliam.

“Engineers of Art” strive to create a universal artistic language through the “aesthetic analysis” of the outside world, using artistic tools to interpret science, technology, the humanities, philosophy, and medicine. The artists refer to their method as “Saint Petersburg post-realism.” Artworks by the “Engineers” are not autonomous creations; they are in constant interaction with space and time. In a certain sense, time becomes the co-author of the artists: by diligently working with artwork form, the artists ensure that there is always room for future changes. The School is notable for its use of mixed techniques and its preference for collages. Special focus is given to the properties of the materials used in artworks: oil and acrylic paints, clay, canvas, paper, plastic, foam, photography, video stills.

The first exhibitions of the “Engineers” were organized in 1989-1990, in particular at the Kunsthaus Tacheles Gallery in Berlin where the artists wound up after working on a project in Genoa. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, the “Engineers,” while still developing the concepts of post realism, actively worked in film, video, and animation: works from that period include the film “The Pharmacy” (1989), the animation film “Cupid’s Arrow” set to music by Sergey Kuryokhin (1992), and the film “The Country Heralds its Heroes” (1991) that was included in the competition program at the Berlin Film Festival. The “Engineers” were later commissioned by Potsdam to produce a performance art piece.

The lithograph “Thought is a chemical reaction” created by Franz Rodwalt and Inal Savchenkov in the early 1990s stands out among the landmark artworks exhibited at the gallery. It represents a synthesis of “engineering” and “art.” The human skull, divided into separate sections, is compared to a submarine in terms of structure. The spine, a symbolic representation of “appropriate” academic artwork foundations, is juxtaposed with an antenna, another mechanism for receiving signals.

Other notable works include Inal Savchenkov’s painting “Did you forget the keys?” (1989-2021), based on a stolen city poster. The exposition also includes the expressionistic urban landscape “Linden is the capital of England” (1989) by Grigory Strelnikov. The latter artwork shows us how the “Engineers” handle composition in painting and how they interpret reality through improvisational means. The Sergey En’kov painting “Untitled” (2016) from the “Master of the Lamp” series illustrates the structural analysis behind the images and colours as well as the artist’s collage technique. Franz Rodwalt’s “After Tintoretto” (2005), a piece from a series of large-format multigure watercolour paintings, is another fine example of the group’s penchant for collages.

Media Preview: September 16, 18:00

Place: GUM-Red-Line Gallery, Line 1, Floor 3, GUM, 3 Red Square, Moscow

About the Gallery:

GUM-Red-Line Gallery occupies a space of 280 SM in the front section of GUM. The gallery overlooks the Red Square. The spectacular architecture created by Alexander Pomerantsev notwithstanding, the extraordinary historical importance of the location is a remarkable feature of the gallery. This is the place where Henri Brocard established his gallery in 1893. Henri Brocard was a famous Moscow perfumer and collector. While maintaining the legacy of the past, GUM-Red-Line Gallery emphasizes itself as a thoroughly new cultural space, where GUM customers can get an insight into contemporary art.

The Gallery, located on Line 1, Floor 3 at GUM, is open to visitors daily, from 10 to 22.

Information: info@gum-red-line.ru



www.gum-red-line.ru

CONTACT INFO FOR MEDIA:

Tatiana Nemirovskaya

PR director

+7 (926) 582-4204

mailday7@gmail.com

Evgenia Getinger

Project PR manager

+ 7 (962) 980-31-29

evgetinger@gmail.com

MEDIA PARTNERS:

РАДИОКУЛЬТУРА

афиша