

GUM-Red-Line Gallery is launching Farid Bogdalov's solo exhibition "The Ninth Wave"

5.07.2023 – 31.08.2023



GUM-Red-Line Gallery presents Farid Bogdalov's solo exhibition "The Ninth Wave" showcasing over 40 new works from the artist's various painting and graphic art series created from 2017 to 2023.

Painting remains the artist's primary medium. The public will experience the new series "Goldfish" for the first time. The artist worked on it since 2018. In this particular case, the goldfish represents Fortune, the goddess of good luck and the granter of wishes. Bogdalov places the caught fishes into turned-over glasses as though to suggest the question: how can you possibly obtain luck without spilling some water?

In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Bogdalov envisioned a cycle on the theme of the great flood. All paintings from the cycle are connected through a narrative of the coming catastrophe. The protagonists of the paintings peacefully relax on an ocean beach while completely disregarding the large wave that is about to unleash destruction upon them. This postmodern series sees the artist uniting Russian

romanticism and the visual aspects of American pop art. The subject matter of Ivan Aivazovsky's famous painting "The Ninth Wave" is reimagined: Bogdalov introduces us not to the catastrophe and its tragic aftermath, but the moment just before the catastrophe strikes.

Pop art with just a bit of rot is another theme that runs through the artist's oeuvre. Works from the series appear enticing and alarming at the same time. A big piece of cake seemingly shot for a fashion magazine cover is already being eaten by a fly, while an appetizing burger reveals itself to be completely inedible upon closer inspection. As a revelation of the artist's vision of the surrounding world, two realities collide: the idealized world of ads and the forthcoming disaster.

Farid Bogdalov was born on June 23, 1963. He was a founder of the Furmanny Pereulok art squat, established in 1986, and an organizer of workshops on Chistoprudny Boulevard (1989–1994). Right here, in the alleyways of Moscow, many famous artists made and showcased their works, first to each other and then to the public: Yuri Albert, Vadim Zakharov, Konstantin Zvezdochetov, Leonid Tishkov, Andrey Filippov, AES Group, Toadstools, and Champions of the World. In 2002, Bogdalov created the "One Artwork Gallery": the concept envisioned that any given exhibition with a new conceptual space would be dedicated to a single work.

In the early 1990s Farid worked with Georgy Litichevsky as part of the BOLI group (Bogdalov-Litichevsky). In 2004, Bogdalov created in collaboration with Sergey Kalinin one of the largest paintings in modern Russian history – the monumental "Meeting of the Federal Assembly" measuring 4 by 9 meters. The title is a reference to the similarly large (4 by 8.7 meters) 1903 painting "Ceremonial Sitting of the State Council on 7 May 1901 Marking the Centenary of its Foundation" by Ilya Repin. In the 2010s, the artist permanently moved to the Moscow Region, near the so-called Medvezhyi Lakes, and stopped actively engaging in the Moscow art scene while still continuously working. The GUM-Red-Line exhibition will be Farid Bogdalov's first solo exhibition after a long time.

Project curator – Mikhail Sidlin.

GUM-Red-Line Gallery director – Igor Kazakov.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Farid Bogdalov (born 1963) is a Russian artist, one of the founders of the Furmanny Pereulok art squat in Moscow. In 1980–1984, Bogdalov studied at the Kalinin Moscow Art & Industry Institute, majoring in tapestry work. In 1984–1986, he studied at the Surikov Moscow State Academic Art Institute (Painting Department). In 1989 joined the Moscow Municipal Committee of Graphic Artists. Bogdalov's works can be found in private collections in the USA, Italy, France, and Sweden.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

GUM-RED-LINE Gallery occupies a space of 280 SM in the front of GUM. Its windows face 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 established right here all the way back in 1893. Henri Brocard was a famous Moscow perfumer and art collector. While maintaining the legacy of the past, GUM-RED-LINE Gallery acts as a starting point for the cultivation of a new cultural space where GUM customers can learn about contemporary art.

The gallery, located on Floor 3, Line 1, GUM, is open to visitors every day, 10 to 22.

www.gum-red-line.ru



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