

Oleg Kulik. Irresponsible painting

On June 28 the GUM-Red-Line Gallery on Red Square will host the premiere of a series of new artworks from Oleg Kulik, one of the most famous contemporary Russian artists.



Irresponsible painting is a new series of artworks by Oleg Kulik. The series will be first presented at the GUM-Red-Line Gallery on Red Square from June 28, 2019 through August 1, 2019.

The series is inspired by the trendy aesthetic of neuron networks.

“A lack of responsibility is a highly individualized, deeply personal choice”, – notes Oleg Kulik. – “It is irresponsible art because there is no future goal that these artworks must help achieve: each painting is a complete statement on its own.”
“This is Kulik 5.0”, – emphasizes curator Mikhail Sidlin. – “Kulik 1.0 was a sculptor, 2.0 – a performance artist, 3.0 – a photographer, 4.0 – an opera director, and finally, 5.0 is a painter.”

Seventeen monumental paintings and three sculptures will be on display. All pieces reflect the artist’s fascination with fast-paced work involving traditional materials. Quick clay molding and a broad brushstroke fully attest that Oleg Kulik sees speed as a necessary quality of a contemporary artist.

Neuron networks form a visual symbol of 2019. The pictures that have been achieved through passing the original photos

through digital programs had not received a literal adaptation when they were painted on canvas by Oleg Kulik. Each piece discards the individual traits of the original photo and underlines the importance of the collective unconsciousness. The resulting images of political leaders and masses of people seem to be a message from the noosphere that is being presented at the Gallery near the Kremlin. Oleg Kulik acts as a prophet of the Russian soul.





Oleg Kulik will present his performance with audience participation – Quick Molding – on June 22, at 18:00. The artist welcomes all collaborative efforts from those people who love contemporary art. Kulik will mold a figure of a turkey during the performance. A frame will be installed in the Gallery. The participants of the performance will give the structure the necessary form and shape with the use of molding techniques. “You can use your fingers to transfer all energy – both positive and negative – into the clay”, – states Oleg Kulik.

About the Gallery:

The 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 of Brocard, a notable Moscow perfume magnate and collector, were displayed for almost ten years and turned GUM – at the time, the Upper Trading Rows – from a prestigious shopping center into one of the most popular leisure venues for the Muscovites. The concerts and artistic soirées that became quite popular 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 a 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 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 events venue.

The Gallery is located at Floor 3, Line 1, GUM, and is open every day from 10 to 22

Exhibition Dates: June 28 – August 1, 2019

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