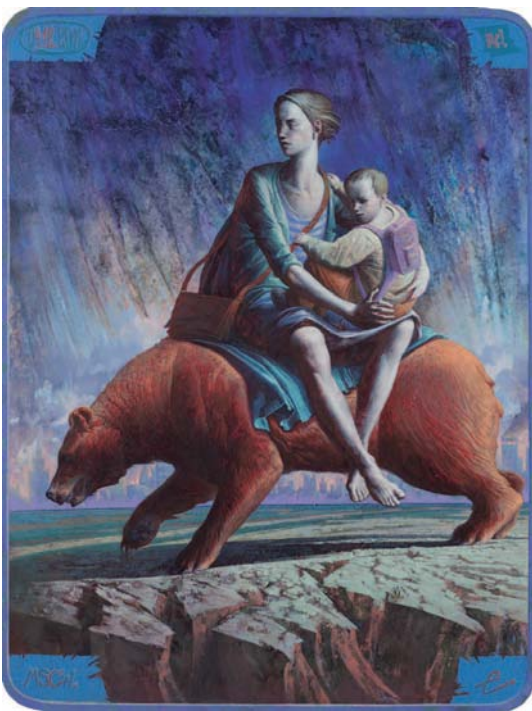


EGOR KOSHELEV

UNDERGROUND MONUMENTS/ASTRO-HIPSTER DOMINE

7 SEPTEMBER – 6 OCTOBER 2012
OPENING: THURSDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, 6-8 PM

Regina Gallery is pleased to present *Underground Monuments/Astro-hipster Domine*, a solo show by Russian artist Egor Koshelev (b. 1980, Moscow). The exhibition showcases a new series of large scale paintings and site-specific murals created at the gallery over the course of summer 2012.



Egor Koshelev originally studied in the Department of Monumental Painting at the Stroganov University of Arts and Industry in Moscow. Exposed daily to the aesthetics of the Soviet monumental style, he went on to appropriate the latter to suit his individual needs, whilst at the same time fusing it with that other stable of post-Soviet public intervention - graffiti. Today, Koshelev has developed his own unique visual language fusing high and low, official and unofficial art. Through this postmodern approach Koshelev subverts conventions surrounding the design of public art (both in Russia and internationally) and conceives contemporary monuments – characterised by their vivid, day-glo colours and vigorous painterly gestures.

With reference to the title of a Pink Floyd song 'Astronomy Domine', for the main part of the exhibition Koshelev has produced a series of narrative works concentrating on the story of the scenes from the life of the 'Last Artist'. This 'Last Artist' (who has featured in Koshelev's past exhibitions, most notably at Artberloga Gallery in 2011) is a satirical character who stands for every artist struggling to find his or her own place in society. The 'Last Artist' is driven by a relentless, farcical quest for success and approval and the knowledge of the latter's impossibility. He continuously questions the purpose of his art, eventually escaping below ground to

build an alternative community, but never gives up. Ultimately, in Koshelev's symbolic narrative, the 'Last Artist' embraces his position as an outcast, creating his own autonomous reality.

In Koshelev's work, the questioning of the artist's status within contemporary culture is a recurring theme and central focus. The idea of the artist as an outsider has a strong history, and Koshelev's works represent a continual interrogation of how an artist must unremittingly negotiate his or her position as events change around them. Koshelev's works often make reference to the creative profession and, with a particular if uncommon fascination for 16th century Mannerism, the artist frequently pays tribute to previous practitioners, from Michelangelo and Tintoretto to El Greco, especially in the way that the space and compositions of his pictures are



constructed. Crucially, however, in Koshelev's art, Old Master painting and historical styles are not employed as a means of bolstering his own practice, but are used as a way of challenging issues of stylistic conformity and the role of contemporary painting.



In Koshelev's art, Modernism is just one style among many, that jostles for position amongst Californian skateboarding tags, eyewitness documentary sketches of the 'Occupy' movement in Russia, and figures from the Sistine Chapel.

Egor Koshelev lives and works in Moscow, Russia. He has held solo shows at Regina Gallery, Moscow (2008) and at Artberloga, Moscow (2009, 2011). His recent group exhibitions include 'Space' at the Moscow Museum of Modern Art (2007), 'Checkpoint' at Proekt Fabrika, Moscow (2012) and the Moscow Biennale of Young Art (2010, 2012) amongst others. Earlier this year he was shortlisted for the Strabag Artaward International 2012.

OPENING HOURS: TUESDAY-SATURDAY 10AM-6PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND PRESS ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT: TIBA@REGINAGALLERY.COM, +44 207 636 7768

Forthcoming exhibitions:

Inspection Medical Hermeneutics
INSTALLATION THE PIPE OR THE ALLEY OF LONGEVITY
12 September - 31 October 2012
Regina Moscow

Oleg Kulik
DEEP INTO RUSSIA AND OTHER WORKS
9 October - 1 December 2012
Regina London

Frieze Art Fair
11 - 14 October 2012
Regent's Park, London

Egor Koshelev, *Untitled*, 2011, acrylic on cardboard, 79 x 59 cm
Installation view, *Phobia*, Artberloga, Moscow, 2009
Egor Koshelev, *Tripping*, 2011, acrylic on canvas, 215 x 330 cm

ALL IMAGES COURTESY REGINA GALLERY LONDON & MOSCOW