

Ivan Razumov
10 Dreams About Moscow

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Preview: June 30, 7 PM

Regina Gallery is pleased to invite you to Ivan Razumov's solo exhibition, "10 Dreams About Moscow."

This is the artist's first solo show at Regina Gallery, and the first series of works since the author established himself as "the sharpest pencil in two capitals."

The project treats the way impressions of culture and contemporary life refract and mutate in our dreams, revealing the hidden connections, conflicts, and collisions between mass and individual consciousness.

This is hardly the first time the artist has turned to this set of themes. During the Tenth International Manifesto Festival, for instance, the Sigmund Freud Dream Museum hosted Ivan Razumov's show, "Drawn dreams of the animate workbench." At that time, the artist exhibited sketches and drafts drawn automatically or spontaneously. Today, an "oily chromatic mass corresponds to colorful dream material much more closely than does heavy ink."

The artist Razumov's dreams may be inspired by memories of his Soviet childhood or war movies; alternatively, they may respond to more contemporary phenomena like the preponderance of architectural eclecticism or the conflict between old and new social technologies. Hazy images of street unrest and grotesque constructions intermix with emotions connected to the experience of returning to painting, a process the artist himself, not without humor, compares to a love intrigue:

"For a long time I was involved with Graphic Art – skinny and grotesque, monotonous in her verbosity, and harsh. Ultimately, I tired of her rationalistic exactitude and constrained sensuality. She drove me over the edge with her obsessive scatological humor and the superficiality of her argumentation. Painting is a rosy-cheeked, buxom, uninhibited, promising, cosmic courtesan. Not so long ago, and this is still the case for many, taking brush and canvas in hand was akin to robbing a bank."

Indeed, until recently, Ivan Razumov favored graphic art both in his exhibition practice and in his illustrations of books by Pavel Peppershteyn and other contemporary authors, as well as those of literary classics like Mayakovsky, Basho, and Pushkin.

According to the author himself, painting is "a respectable but somewhat kitschy genre, like a piano recital." It would appear that the artist's new series of paintings succeeds in overcoming this imagined flaw through the sincere lightness of his compositional and semantic choices, which rest on a foundation of academic mastery as well as postmodern irony.

Ivan Razumov was born in Moscow in 1972. He is a graduate of the Moscow State Art College of the Memory of 1905 (1991) and the V. Surikov Moscow State Academy Art Institute (1995). His works are housed in the Centre Pompidou, Paris; the Sigmund Freud Dream Museum, St. Petersburg; and in private collections.

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