

SERGEY BRATKOV SCREAM

12/10/11 - 08/12/11

Private view: October 11, Tuesday, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Regina Gallery is pleased to present *Scream*, a new project by Sergey Bratkov (b. 1960) for his first solo exhibition in London. For more than two decades Bratkov has brought his unique vision to the public through various international solo and group shows. His works deal with individuals in their immediate environment and present social condition, a trait clearly inherited from the culture of social realism. In 2006, invited by the Office of Contemporary Art (OCA) - Oslo, Bratkov travelled through Norway. Today for the first time, he brings to the public his strident vision of a journey across a country marked by lurid feelings.

The artist has stated: "Right after the recent dramatic events widely broadcasted in the international media (namely, the terrorist attack by 32-year-old Anders Behring Breivik), I had the strange feeling of *déjà vu*. Stunning Norwegian landscapes jumped out into my mind, museums dedicated to the Second World War with mannequins in uniforms full of blood, bunkers, rusted casings, perpetual sunshine, the Norwegian Constitution Day with processions of children, the cult of Edvard Munch (1863-1944) and his *Scream* painting of which a reproduction was hanging in my hotel room. Already, the country appeared to me to be inhabited by strong anxiety. Everything seemed to predict the coming appearance of evil. Quickly, I thought that the devil lurks behind the cross. The killings by Breivik were a genuinely mad act of civil war in the heart of Europe. The feelings I experienced and collected at that time are the main focus of the present show".

The series of works presented in the lower gallery feature photographs made in Kuyalnik, Odessa (Ukraine), a health spa that specialises in mud treatments. Since the horror genre, the cellar is a mysterious place. It is the end point and final statement of the exhibition. The pictures feature patients wrapped like mummies in fabrics full of mud. Art historian Robert Rosenblum has mentioned that Munch must have been inspired by a Peruvian mummy when he painted the asexual creature in his painting *The Scream*. It is presented like an embryo with hands held beside its cheeks. This scared creature runs over a bridge and far behind we can see an island on the Oslo Fjord.

P.S. It has been noted by the artist that: "During the explosion carried out by Breivik in the centre of Oslo, 43 artworks from the city's The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design were damaged. Among these was *The Vinter von Fjorden* by Munch - another painting with the subject of fjords."

Sergey Bratkov was born in Kharkov, Ukraine in 1960. He lives and works in Moscow. In 2010, Bratkov was presented with the Russian Innovation Award for the Best Visual Art Work for his video installation *Balaklavsky Drive* which was presented at Regina Gallery Moscow. His works have featured extensively in group shows in international institutions including the Venice Biennale (2003, 2007), the São Paulo Biennial (2002), Manifesta (2005), Rauma Biennale Balticum, 2nd Moscow Biennale and Berlin-Moscow 1950-2000 (2003) at the Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin. His solo shows include: Sergey Bratkov, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead (2007); Moscow Museum of Modern Art; Kunstverein Rosenheim (2002); Glory Days, Winterthur Fotomuseum (2008); Ukraine, Pinchuk Art Centre, Kiev (2010); Deichtorhal- len, Hamburg (2010) and S.M.A.K Stedelijk Museum for Actuele Kunst, Ghent (2005).

For further information and press enquiries please contact: london@reginagallery.com, +44 207 636 77 68