

Press Release

Elikuka
Tigran Khachatryan
Egor Koshelev
Olya Kroytor
Vlad Kulkov
Arseniy Zhilyaev

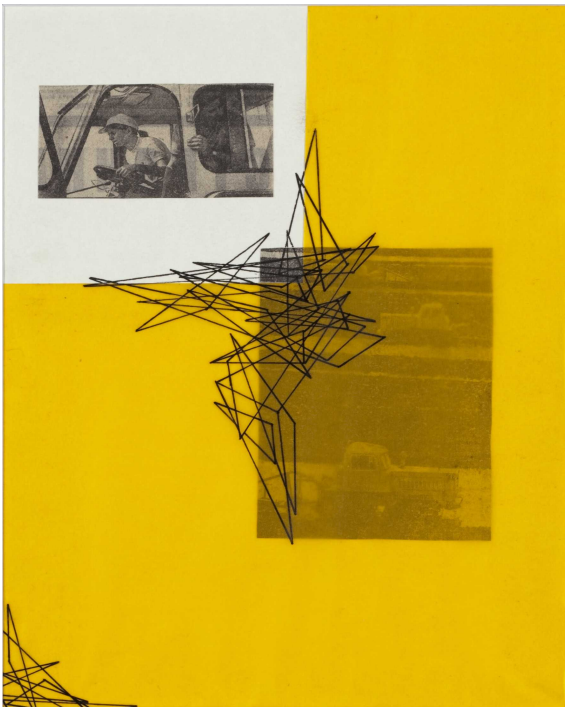
NUTS

9 September – 6 October 2011

Private View: Thursday 8 September, 6–8 pm

Opening Hours: Tuesday–Saturday 10am–6pm

Regina Gallery is pleased to announce, *Nuts*, a group show of a new generation of predominantly Russian artists who will present their latest works. Whilst the participants have already attracted worldwide attention through multiple group shows in international institutions and Biennales, most of the works in the exhibition are being shown abroad for the first time.



Olya Kroytor, *Untitled*, 2011
mixed media on paper

In the poem *The Tale of Tsar Saltan* Alexander Pushkin (1799–1837) wrote about a magical squirrel that could make nuts turn into precious stones. This poem has a special place in Russian consciousness, being an ongoing source of influence to children and inspiration for the older generation who grew up with these stories always present in Russian education. Here, the nuts became a symbol of how classical ideas permeated into general culture, leaving its mark in unexpected ways.

Translated into the English language, there is an obvious play of words which refers to the craziness of young thinkers. For instance, the deceptively simple paintings of art collective EliKuka (Oleg Eliseev and Evgeniy Kukoverov, b. 1985 and 1984) play upon striking graphic slogans and illustrations to bring about absurd meanings in objects from everyday life.

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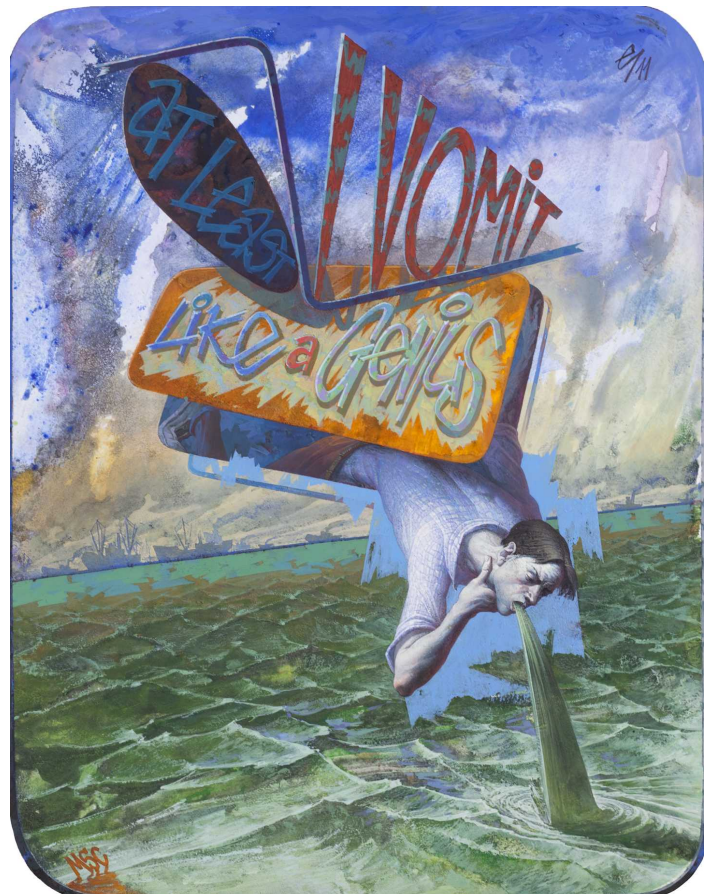
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Other artists are clearly inspired by the vocabulary of different movements of the 20th century. Vlad Kulkov's (b. 1986) organic paintings are expressive and imply dynamic gesture. Through collage Olya Kroytor (b. 1986) invents her own language located in the aesthetics of Social Realism and constructivism. Arseniy Zhilyaev (b. 1984) also draws upon constructivist typology to make sculptural slogans from such readily available materials as flat-pack shelves and old furniture.

Whilst certain artists in the exhibition approach the creative process from a purely aesthetic perspective, others create an obviously politically-engaged body of work. Egor Koshelev's (b. 1980) iconic and figurative compositions result in a mixture between traditional painting and urban graffiti. Lastly, the unambiguous videos of Armenian-born Tigran Khachatryan (b. 1980) deal with technical progress and human liberation, and depict a society built on mass media and political controversies.

The past few years have seen the youngest generation of artists moving towards the creation of a blank slate in relation to pre-existing ideas

which were dominant in the art movements of the last hundred years. In Russia, this group have each come up with unique positions, entirely detached from former dogmas. Through such means this group of individuals have been able to explore all possible horizons in various media such as painting, sculpture photography, video and installation.



Egor Koshelev, *I Vomit at Least Like a Genius*, 2011
acrylic on cardboard

About Regina Gallery

Regina Gallery was established by Vladimir and Regina Ovcharenko in Moscow in 1990, a time of startling change, political involvement and experimentation on the Russian art scene. It quickly earned a reputation as an urgent and unique platform, for performance in particular, hosting landmark projects with Moscow Actionists such as Oleg Kulik, as well as staging important group and solo shows by Soviet-generation conceptualists (Ivan Chuikov, Andrei Monastyrski) and emerging artists from the former USSR (Pavel Pepperstein, Oleg Golosiy).

In April 2010 Regina Gallery opened a new gallery in London, situated at 22 Eastcastle Street in the arts-hub of Fitzrovia. The venue is the first permanent space run by Regina Gallery outside of Moscow, and continues to present the most exciting international art as well as focusing on established and emerging art from Russia and Ukraine. For many of these artists Regina Gallery provided the earliest opportunity to present their work to the public in a relatively free, independent context outside of the usual circle of official exhibitions and private apartment shows. Regina has since distinguished itself by being one of the most pioneering commercial galleries in Russia to develop an international program, giving exposure to now-established names from the USA and elsewhere (Gabriel Orozco, Jonathan Meese, Mike Kelley), as well as regularly collaborating with notable curators from across the world.

Regina Gallery regularly takes part in international art fairs including Art Basel, Frieze Art Fair, Art Basel Miami Beach and The Armory Show and its artists have been invited to take part in major shows including Documenta Kassel, São Paulo and Venice Biennials.

Regina currently represents around 30 established and emerging contemporary artists, including those from UK, France, Germany and elsewhere.

Forthcoming exhibitions:

Semyon Faibisovich

THREE IN ONE

20 September - 15 November 2011

Regina Moscow at Red October Factory

Jorinde Voigt

1000 VIEWS

23 September - 12 November 2011

Regina Moscow

Sergey Bratkov

12 October - 12 November 2011

Regina London

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