

PRESS RELEASE

Andrei Roiter
APPROVED BAGGAGE

18/05/2011 – 25/06/2011

Private View: Tuesday, May 17, 2011, 18:00 – 21:00

Regina Gallery is pleased to present the first solo show of Andrei Roiter *Approved Baggage*. The title of the exhibition refers to the themes of travelling and relocation in space, which have been in the focus of the artist's oeuvre over the last 20 years.

The metaphysics of journey and pilgrimage is a key source of inspiration for Andrei Roiter. In the majority of his works signs of the nomadic imagery of life reveal themselves. Andrei Roiter does not look upon nomadism and the state of transition as a social phenomenon but as an existential condition inscribed in the very destiny of humanity.

'The idea of travelling has always been very important to me. It exists in two forms, which I feel like talking about: on the one hand – with a suitcase, and on the other – at the writing desk or the chair, when you remain static while things travel around in your head'. In his works Andrei Roiter employs motifs and images, which he comes across during his journeys, both real and virtual. You can call them a unique kind of souvenirs, brought back from travels.

The images created by the artist, as well as the artist himself, live a nomadic life. Objects which appear in his paintings exist by themselves in a specific installation space rather than in an illusionary one. For example *Portal* (2010) is a representation of another, earlier work – an object in the form of a suitcase with a circular hole cut out in the centre on both sides.

The symbolic world of images created by Andrei Roiter has books, notepads, rucksacks, cameras, models of globes and more complex structures, ready for a perpetual relocation. But a deep desire for permanent residency, inherent in any wanderer, is concealed in the roped piles books, transformed into a mobile library, in bizarre heaps of wooden shelves, and in the comfortable inside of the large suitcases. This "travelling artist", identifying his works with tourism or with a search for inspiration through acquainting oneself with new places, refers the genesis of his poetics to the European Romantic tradition. The unstable and ephemeral borders of his world are reflected in a unique synthesis of subjective experience and his own artistic philosophy with a deeper and more symbolic meaning of the depicted objects.

Andrei Roiter was born in 1960 in Moscow, Russia. 1978-80 studied at the Moscow Architectural Institute. Lives and works in Amsterdam and New York. A member of group exhibitions since 1977. His first solo show took place in Kunsthalle Basel (Basel, Switzerland) in 1990. Since then his solo shows have taken place in some of the most prestigious galleries around the world: Jack Hanley Gallery (New York, USA), Blum and Poe (Los Angeles, USA), Impronte Contemporary Art (Milan, Italy), Galerie Akinci (Amsterdam, the Netherlands), Laura Bartlett Gallery (London, UK) and others. Roiter's artworks are included in numerous museum collections: Tretyakov State Gallery (Moscow, Russia), Central Museum Utrecht (Utrecht, the Netherlands), Unicredit (Vienna, Austria), Akzo Nobel Art Foundation (Amsterdam, the Netherlands), Zimmeril Art Museum (New Jersey, USA), Ludwig Forum (Aachen, Germany) and others.

Exhibition runs from 18th May through 25th June 2011.

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