

PRESS RELEASE

SERGEY BRATKOV
NEITHER WAR NOR PIECE

18/03 - 14/05/2011

Private view: 17 March, Thursday, 6-9 pm

*And two thousand years of war,
War without any particular reason*
Victor Tsoi

Regina Gallery is pleased to present a new project of Sergey Bratkov 'Neither War Nor Peace'. The video "Endless War", and a new series of photographs are an attempt to interpret the last decade, or the so-called noughties.

The title of the show precisely reflects the mood of the time: 'It stands to notice, that we are not in a state between war and peace. It is possible to pose the question about being in a state of «neither here, nor there» – considers the artist, showing us its signs through the broken spaces of factories, abandoned flats and in the taped windows of the metro. In this self-formed emptiness, the colours appear brighter and the sounds seem sweeter. For this reason the photographs, arranged in the shape of an unfinished half-cross-half-swastika, compliment the knocks of metal helmets falling out of the projection screen on to the floor of the gallery.

The general notion behind the genre of photography is to fixate history. Sergey Bratkov introduces an aesthetic experience to this documentation of time. Before the artistic conception appears and the free will of the artist is displayed it's just a blank sheet of photo-paper, which might at some point become a documentation of the present moment. But the supreme goal of photography is to capture and preserve 'the eternal now' in the 'temporary now'. Similarly Sergey Bratkov's works go beyond the borders of photography. Everything that the artist narrates is equally related both to our past and our future.

'In the depths of our minds we have a collective unconscious. Moreover, the Russian conscience has a mythological nature rather than an historic one – free of borders between past and present. Therefore we are so easily pushed into the realm of myths. It is possible to say that our country has always been and remains in this state of 'neither war nor peace'. However this is not just a Russian sensation. It's universal. A sensation on a cosmic scale'.

The project 'Neither War Nor Peace' is the conceptualization of the idea based on the famous artist's work 'Long live the bad of today for the good of tomorrow', presented for the first time in 2010. The idea runs through the solidifying state of reality, broken spaces, and the noughties to unfold and turn into hope for the better.

Sergey Bratkov was born in Kharkov, Ukraine in 1960. Since 1999 he has lived and worked in Moscow. His solo shows include: BALAKLAVSKY DRIVE (2009), SEARCHING FOR HORIZON (2008), SPA (2007) and many others at Regina Gallery (Moscow, Russia); PART OF MY LIFE (2006) at the Moscow Museum of Modern Art (Moscow, Russia); UKRAINE (2010), Pinchuk Art Centre (Kiev, Ukraine); GLORY DAYS (2008), Winterthur Fotomuseum (Winterthur, Switzerland); GLORY DAYS (2010), Deichtor Hallen, Aktuelle Kunst Haus der Photographie (Hamburg, Germany); BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art (Gateshead, Great Britain); S.M.A.K Stedelijk Museum for Actuele Kunst (Gent, Belgium) etc. Winner of the 'Innovation' prize for Best Visual Artwork (2010).

The exhibition runs from 18 March through 14 May.

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