

## ПРЕСС-РЕЛИЗ

Regina Gallery presents the debut solo show of a young artist within the framework of the YOUNG & FAST project.

### YEGOR KOSHELEV KINKY TAGS 08/15 – 09/05/2008

Opening: August 15, 16:00.

Yegor Koshelev is a 27-y.-o. artist who graduated from the Mural Painting Department of the Moscow State Art and Industry College named after S. G. Stroganov. His first solo show at the Regina Gallery presents 10 paintings (one of them is a large-format 7 x 3 m canvas) and sculptures produced by the author during the last 2 years.

As a mural painter, Yegor Koshelev has an inclination to large forms. Yegor's experiments focus on the striving to combine fantasy style graphics, the richness and plastic vigor of Baroque and Neo-Expressionist gesture painting traditions. The concerns of the young artist cover "big" issues like the role of the human being in the new society of the information type, the topicality of patriotism in Russia, issues of European Christian civilization and power. He is interested in "monumental" plots featuring religious and eschatological motives. In his painting Yegor makes skillful use of synthetic, fluorescent colors, fragmented and "broken" application of paint to the canvas. His works are an amazing mixture of the comic book and Roman triumph relief stylistics.

Like a "bad graffiti boy from the street", Koshelev weaves "words" into his painterly mosaic, the words which are transformed into "tags" in the Internet epoch. The giant three-dimensional signs in his works have formed a social allegory raising the issue of relations between the masses and the power.

*"From the very first years the conscious creature falls into the world scarred with testimonies of strangers and, having no perception immunity, it is doomed to rush about between cuts, marks and monuments, trying to decipher, understand and justify – what a dear positive heroism... But the reality is that the pure force of the comma or of the exclamation mark immeasurably exceeds the potential of the mightiest among mortals. This is the consequence of the identification of the world with the text that took place in the Post-Modernist consciousness which, beside other things, made the human world transcendental for it is present but as a hint in our life today since the living image is always suppressed by the sign, and the author – by the artwork."* Ye. Koshelev

The fascinating game played in the spaces between the signifier and the signified characteristic of 20<sup>th</sup> century masters ranging from Surrealists, Oberiuts to Post-Modernists and Structuralists, has acquired a legendary fairy-tale quality characterizing Russian monumental art in Koshelev's work. Recently Koshelev's paintings were not accepted for a summing up exhibition of young art due to the presence of explicit anticlerical motives in them.

The REGINA Gallery is happy to present a young author, who is little known to the general public, within the framework of the YOUNG&FAST project. The show will be on display till September 5.