



CHELSEA ART MUSEUM

HOME OF THE MIOTTE FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

Moscow – New York = Parallel Play

Selections from the Kolodzei Art Foundation Collection of Russian and Eastern European Art.
Curated by Natalia Kolodzei

Thaw: Russian Art From Glasnost to the Present

Selections from the Guelman Collection '15G' exhibition at the Russian Museum, Marble Palace,
Saint Petersburg 2007.
Curated by Marat Guelman and Juan Puentes

Friday February 22-Saturday May 17, 2008.

Opening Reception Wednesday, February 27, 2008. 6-9 pm.

The Chelsea Art Museum – Home of the Miotte Foundation - is proud to bring together two seminal collections of Russian art.

The Kolodzei Collection, founded by Tatiana Kolodzei in Moscow during the height of the Cold War and continued today with her daughter, Natalia, is one of world's largest private collections of Russian and Eastern European Art, with over 7,000 pieces by more than 300 artists from Russia and the former Soviet Union, chronicling four decades of nonconformist art from the post-Stalinist era to the present. The Kolodzei Collection is a living, open entity, which continues to grow, and reflect changes in culture, while reacting to the variable nature of contemporary art.

The exhibition *Moscow-New York=Parallel Play: Selections from the Kolodzei Art Foundation Collection of Russian and Eastern European Art* was first shown at the National Centre for Contemporary Arts (NCCA) in Moscow in 2007. The exhibition highlights the artistic axis of the two cities, representing Russian artists living or working in these two art capitals and creating with their art an international context and distinctive intellectual plastic Russian "rhyme" in the international art community.

The works reflect the major current of Russian alternative culture and describe the history of independent, or "non-conformist," art processes and movements from the 1960s to the present.

Artists in the exhibition include: Vagrigh Bakhchanyan, Petr Belenok, Eric Bulatov, Ivan Chuikov, Rimma Gerlovina and Valeriy Gerlovin, Francisco Infante, Ilya Kabakov, Vyacheslav Koleichuk, Vitaly Komar and Alex Melamid, Dmitri

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Krasnopevtsev, Leonid Lamm, Ernst Neizvestny, Vladimir Nemukhin, Dmitri Plavinsky, Oscar Rabin, Leonid Sokov, Eduard Shteinberg, Oleg Vassiliev, and Vladimir Yankilevsky, as well as artists of the younger generation.

Undoubtedly, politics have influenced the arts in Russia, and Marat Guelman, founder of the M+J Guelman Gallery in Moscow, has become something of a legend in his lifetime for both his support of the arts and his often provocative political stance.

The title THAW is based on a real experienced situation by the people and the art world in Russia from the 1960s onwards, a period of slow, gradual but real thaw, a defrost of three quarters of a century's cultural freeze that happened not in a single decade, but over several decades, culminating in the period of the 1990s known as Glasnost.

The '15 G' of the subtitle refers to the first 15 years of Marat Guelman's art gallery activities and how the events that took place there changed the artistic panorama of Russia and helped create a real, tangible art scene in Moscow. Radical people who frequented the gallery as audience, supporters, sympathisers and as participating artists were coined "Guelmanites" - even to this day. Artists in this exhibition include: AES+F, Blue Noses, Vladimir Dubosarsky& Alexander Vinogradov, Gor Chahal, Olga&Alexander Florenskie , Georgy Ostretsov, Juri Shabelnikov, Vasili Tsagolov, Arsen Savadov, Valery Koshlyakov, Dmitry Gutov, Alexander Kosolapov, Dmitry Vrubel & Viktoria Timofeeva, Oleg Kulik, Erbol Meldibekov, Alexey Kallima, Avdei Ter-Oganian

The Chelsea Art Museum

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Museum Hours:

Tue-Sat 11am-6pm, Thur 11am-8pm

\$8 general/\$4 students-seniors/members free

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The Chelsea Art Museum - Home of the Miotte Foundation - (CAM) is dedicated to showing art from an international standpoint and provides an intimate platform for individual artists and thematic group shows that may not find a home in larger art institutions. In addition, CAM does exchange programs with other organizations around the world. This concept of providing a platform for artists and ideas that are not addressed elsewhere in the U.S. originates from the Jean Miotte Foundation (housed at CAM and dedicated to archiving, preserving, presenting and making available for exhibitions the work of Jean Miotte). Miotte's work is very much influenced by dance and music, and the Chelsea Art Museum also supports this integration of the arts, understanding that they work together and often influence each other. For more information visit

<http://www.chelseartmuseum.org>

The Kolodzei Art Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public foundation started in 1991, organizes exhibitions and cultural exchanges in museums and cultural centers in the United States, Russia and other countries, often utilizing the considerable resources of the Kolodzei Collection of Russian and Eastern European Art, publishes books on Russian art, and provides art supplies to Russian artists. The Kolodzei Collection of Russian and Eastern European Art consists of over 7,000 art works, including paintings, drawings and sculptures, by more than 300 artists from Russia and the former Soviet Union. For additional information visit <http://www.KolodzeiArt.org> or email Kolodzei@KolodzeiArt.org

The Marat Guelman Gallery is one of the first and most famous galleries to appear in the Post-Soviet Russia. It was founded in 1990, a year before the Soviet Union collapsed. Just as a few other forward-thinking institutions that emerged in the 90s, the Gallery not only provided exhibition space, but also presented itself as an intellectual workshop, developing ideas and concepts for the art of today's Russia. For further information visit

<http://www.guelman.ru/eng/gallery/>

Media Sponsor of the Exhibition: *Russia!* Magazine <http://readrussia.com/>
