



OLEG KUDRYASHOV

Bridge To The Future

Exhibition of selected works & presentation of the artist's first monograph

Russian Cultural Centre, 37 Kensington High Street, London, W8 5ED

17 April – 27 April 2018

Private View: 17 April 2018, 7-9pm



Oleg Kudryashov, *Ivan the Terrible*, 1986.

'Kudryashov's works are so good, and so unlike anything else, that the obscurity to which we have so long relegated him, and the difficulties that he has encountered and overcome, should serve as a lesson to us all.' – William Packer, Financial Times

The Russian Centre of Culture and Science in London together with the London Collectors Club are delighted to announce the presentation of *Bridge To The Future* – the first comprehensive monograph on the artist Oleg Kudryashov accompanied by an exhibition of selected works created between 1983 and 2003.

A key figure in the development of Russian contemporary art, Oleg Kudryashov is a groundbreaking artist who has attained fame in the UK and Russia with his works acquired by major US and UK museums such as Tate, London and the National Gallery of Art, Washington. His career spans over 60 years starting in the Soviet Union at the end of the 1950s and on emigrating to the UK in 1974 he was immediately noticed by Roland Penrose and recognised as one of the unique Russian masters of its kind. He returned to Russia after almost 25 years and currently lives in Moscow.

Kudryashov drew his inspiration from works by Cranach, Altdorfer, Rembrandt and other Old Masters as well as from the illustrated books and postcards by Bocklin and the German symbolists which he saw in his childhood. Admittedly it was David Hockney with his exhibition at Tate Gallery in the 1970s who opened Oleg's eyes to the Old Masters. As a naturally gifted and original artist, Kudryashov was not only building his own style but was looking for the forms and methods of expression for his own visual language.

Despite the strong tradition for political art in Russia, Kudryashov has had no interest in engaging with this tradition as every art work he makes, whether figurative or abstract is a statement of his trust in his own individuality. He believes in the creative freedom of the artist, with no constraining doctrinal boundaries or bonds.

The monograph covers the whole of the artist's creative career and will be presented during the exhibition opening with a Q&A with its authors, Prof. Christina Lodder, Edward Lucie-Smith, Igor Golomstock and Sergei Reviakin. It has been published by Unicorn Publishing Group.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

About Oleg Kudryashov:

Oleg Kudryashov (b. 1932, Moscow) lived and worked in London from 1974 to 1998. He became one of the leading graphic artists in Moscow in 1960s but was an alien to the official Soviet culture. He could not develop his artistic talent there and emigrated in 1973 settling in London a year after. Kudryashov's creative diapason is very wide. Being a graphic artist primarily he does not want to be entrapped in the two-dimensional flatness of paper and transforms it into spatial construction crossing from paper reliefs over to metal sculptures. When he is hindered by the stillness of time locked in his drawings he turns to a film camera setting the forms born by his powerful creative energy in motion. There are no dividing lines between different art genres and forms for Oleg. Tate Gallery curators were the first ones to draw their attention and buy the works of this unusual and original London artist from Russia. The Tate was followed by Victoria and Albert Museum in London, Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow, the National Gallery of Art and Hirshhorn Museum in Washington DC, Museum of Fine Arts,

Boston, Museum Boijmans, Rotterdam and all major Russian art museums. Kudryashov represented Britain at the Third Biennale of European Graphic Art in Baden-Baden in 1983. Oleg Kudryashov moved back to Russia in 1998 where he was awarded the State Prize for Arts, the highest National Art Award, in 2001.

About Christina Lodder:

Christina Lodder (b.1948) is one of the world leading authorities on Russian modern art and Constructivism in particular. She has produced a number of definitive studies and monographs on the subject including on Naum Gabo. She is the Honorary Professor of History of Art of the University of Kent and the President of Malevich Society, New York, USA.

About Edward Lucie-Smith:

Edward Lucie-Smith (b.1933) is an art critic, curator and broadcaster. He has published over 200 book in all and is generally regarded as the most prolific and the most widely published writer on art with sales totalling over 1,000,000 copies including in Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Russian and Persian. A number of his art books, among them *Movements in Art since 1945*, *Visual Arts of the 20th Century*, *A Dictionary of Art Terms* and *Art Today* are used as standard texts throughout the world. *Movements in Art since 1945*, first published in 1969, has been continuously in print since that date and has been completely updated six times since first publication.

About Igor Golomstock:

Igor Golomstock (1929-2017) became well known in the Soviet Union for co-writing the first book to be published there on Picasso as well as books on Cezanne, Hieronymus Bosch and on the art of ancient Mexico in 1960s. In 1972, he emigrated to the United Kingdom, where he taught at the universities of St. Andrews, Essex and Oxford. He is a co-author of *Unofficial Art from the Soviet Union and Soviet Émigré Artists*. Other publications include two volumes in Russian – *English Art and Art of the Avant-garde*. His authoritative *Totalitarian Art*, published in English in 1990, has never been out of print.

About Sergei Reviakin:

Sergei Reviakin is an art curator and collector specialising in modern and contemporary Russian and British art. He earned his MPhil in Art History and Connoisseurship from Glasgow University at Christie's London and is a co-author of *"The International Art Markets: The Essential Guide for Collectors and Investors"* and an author of *"The Russian Experiment Continues: Russian Avant-Garde of the 1950s -1970s"*. Sergei curated a number of exhibitions in the UK and Europe including *"Freedom Inside Yourself"*, Oleg's first retrospectives in the UK (Bermondsey Project Space, London) in 2012 and in Italy (Municipal Art Gallery, Trieste) in 2015.

EXHIBITION INFORMATION:

Address: Russian Cultural Centre (Rossotrudnichestvo), 37 Kensington High Street, London, W8 5ED

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Admission: Free

Website: www.russianculture.uk