

STRABAG artaward international 2012

PRESSEINFORMATION / PRESS RELEASE

EGOR KOSHELEV / ALTARS OF LOVE AND REBELLION

Das STRABAG Kunstforum freut sich, zur Eröffnung der Ausstellung des beim Strabag Artaward International 2012 ausgezeichneten russischen Künstlers, Egor Koshelev, herzlich einzuladen.

STRABAG Kunstforum cordially invites you to the exhibition of the STRABAG Artaward International 2012 prize - winner, Egor Koshelev (Russia).

13.12.2012, 18:30, STRABAG ARTLOUNGE, Donau-City-Straße 9, 1220 Wien

Begrüßung / *Salutation*: Dr. Thomas Birtel, Mitglied des Vorstandes der STRABAG SE

Zur Ausstellung / *About the work*: Mike Ovcharenko, Direktor, Regina Gallery, Moscow / London

Ausstellungsdauer / *Exhibition*: 14.12.2012 - 25.01.2013

geschlossen / *closed*: 24.12.2012 - 06.01.2013



Detail aus "Kapella", 2, 70 x 14 m (insgesamt 17 Teile), Acryl auf Leinwand, 2011
Detail from the work "Kapella", 2, 70 x 14 m (total 17 parts), acrylic on canvas, 2011
courtesy: Regina Gallery, Moskow / London

During the last two years, being a witness of ever-growing social movement, both at my homeland Russia and all over the world, I have been working on several works based on my impressions of this important process. It should be marked that artistic strategy revealing the social realities has long history in Russian art - nineteenth century democratic realism, OST movement, socialist realism - all these important trends largely define today's approach to figurative painting in Russia. I often concentrate on the problem of style, formal artistic manner – organized as aggressively polystylistic patterns mixing street art, graffiti tags, late renaissance and mannerist ideas of space and volume, pop-art colors, abstract painterly gesture and flat color surfaces. I view my body of work as an investigation of its positive aspect - the afterlife. That's the reason for my interest in polystylistic clashes, complex metaphoric or mythological approach, visual elements of high and low culture. This purely visual side of my work should enforce the presented conflicts and social substance. (from: "Altars of Love and rebellion", Egor Koshelev, November 2012)



The Propagandist, Öl auf Leinwand, oil on canvas, 100x80 cm, 2012
courtesy: Regina Gallery, Moscow / London

I just tried to understand if it is possible to reveal contemporary social life using an artistic approach opposite to common journalistic way of presenting such kind of subjects on today's exhibitions. At a certain point of time I found that this "occasional" pictures and drawings formed an important segment of my work. Moreover, they provoked me to make further steps in the chosen direction - and following this path I finally came to an idea of the present exhibition.....

The 'stylistic salad' though is created not as purely aesthetic experiment but in order to answer the main questions bothering me - what is painting today and how is it possible to practice painting at the moment. Our contemporary raised in long living cultural tradition at the same time it realizes the attachment to the past and redefines today's life through its prolonging postmodern key problems - and moreover the primate of interpretation towards personal declaration. Trying to defy its artists never reach success until they share the postmodern concept of art's death in negative aspect. The afterlife of art does not give you a real chance for

innovation - do not even pretend you have one! - Here your duty is to observe and to judge using any of the existing aesthetic means as the weapon of your judgment.

When I started to study contemporary social subjects I decided that the worst thing artist can do taking such a theme is to forget about his initial conceptions and turn into a photo-copyist. I tried to find more complex metaphoric approach (and sometimes unmasked mythological) preferring my own impressions and imagination to photo and video evidences which are possible to be found in internet blogs, on YouTube etc. I did not avoid the usual stylistic contradictions.....

It may seem inappropriate for a snob that stylistic experiments merge with social pathos, but looking deeper in Russian art history we can see that even such radical artists as Malevich and Suetin found the way to combine their pictorial ideas with socially oriented subjects. Why so? Perhaps because the artist in Russia never felt himself quite satisfied with his position - just painting is not enough - it does not even has sense - it gets one while contacting the social substance and though remains in people's memory. Egor Kosehelev



A Small Break , Öl auf Leinwand, oil on canvas, 200x150 cm, 2012
courtesy: Regina Gallery, Moscow / London

Der **STRABAG ARTAWARD INTERNATIONAL** – Kunstförderungspreis der Strabag SE für Malerei und Zeichnung – gilt als einer der höchst dotierten Preise eines österreichischen Unternehmens für bildende Kunst. Er ist als Anerkennung für individuelle, herausragende künstlerische Leistung zu verstehen und richtet sich an die jüngere Künstlergeneration bis vierzig Jahre, die ihre Werke einem Publikum aus Kunst und Wirtschaft näherbringen möchte. Nach der Preisvergabe und der Gesamtausstellung aller prämierten Werke, präsentiert jeder der fünf ausgezeichneten Künstler seine Arbeiten in einer Einzelausstellung in der Strabag Artlounge in Wien. Sammlungsankäufe werden getätigt und die mit einem Preis bedachten Künstler zu einem artist-in-residence-Aufenthalt im Strabag Artstudio im Strabag Haus eingeladen.

The STRABAG ARTAWARD INTERNATIONAL, art subsidy prize of Strabag SE for painting and drawing is one of the largest grants from an Austrian company for the visual arts. It is to be understood as a recognition for outstanding individual artistic performance and is intended for the younger generation of artists up to the age of forty who seek to bring their works closer to an audience from the worlds of art and economics. After the award ceremony and a group exhibition of the winning works, each of the five chosen artists will present their works in an individual exhibition at the Artlounge in the Vienna Strabag Building. Acquisitions for the collection will be made and the award-winning artists are then invited to stay as artists-in-residence at the Strabag Artstudio in the Vienna Strabag Building.

2012 wurde zum vierten Mal der STRABAG Artaward International ausgeschrieben. Nach dem Ablauf von drei Jahren wurden die Teilnahmeländer gewechselt, drei weitere Kernländer der STRABAG lösten die bisherigen Länder Ungarn, Slowakei und Tschechien ab. Von 2012 bis 2014 können sich junge Künstler aus Österreich, Polen, Rumänien und Russland bewerben. *2012 marked the fourth year of the STRABAG Artaward International. After three years the countries participating in the STRABAG Artaward International change. Three other core countries of the STRABAG group replaced the previous countries of Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. From 2012 to 2014, young artists from Austria, Poland, Romania and Russia have the opportunity to compete for the STRABAG Artaward International.*

Wir ersuchen höflich um Ankündigung oder redaktionellen Beitrag und würden uns über Ihren Besuch sehr freuen. Fotos der Preisvergabe senden wir Ihnen gerne auf Anfrage.

If you would like to use press images, please call us or write a short email. Guided tours at the Vienna Strabag Building (Artlounge, Gironcoli-Sculpture Hall, Artcollection, Artstudio) are possible by appointment.

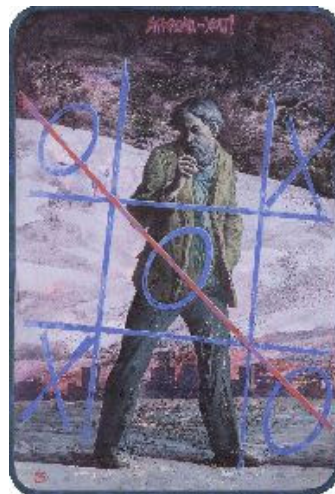
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Preisträgerbilder Egor Koshelev, nominated works, Strabag Artaward International 2012, STRABAG artcollection



Egor Koshelev

1980 geboren in Moskau / 1980 born in Moscow, Russia
1997-2003 Moscow State Academy of Industrial and Applied Arts S.G. Stroganov,
department of monumental painting, graduation
history of art studies, researching monumental painting in Italy, late Renaissance, Mannerist and Baroque
Ph.D. thesis (2006): the art of J. Tintoretto
Lebt und arbeitet in Moskau / lives and works in Moscow, Russia

Ausstellungen/Exhibitions

2012 Altars of Love and Rebellion, Strabag Artlounge, Vienna, A
Checkpoint, PROEKT_FABRIKA, Moscow, Russia
Underground Monuments / Astro-Hipster Domine, London, UK
2011 Nuts, Regina Gallery, London, UK
Last Artist and Exhibition Which Has Never Happened, ArtBerloga, Moscow, Russia
Employment history. Factory art-center, Moscow, Russia
Reactualisation of the Sign, Gallery Na Vspolnom, Moscow, Russia
NEFORMAT, Gallery Na Vspolnom, Moscow, Russia
2010 On the Contrary, Winzavod. Moscow, Russia
PROTO, Moscow State art-center Na Povarskoi, Moscow, Russia
Rare Species - special project within the II Moscow Biennale of Young Art. Factory, Moscow, Russia
Stroganovka, expanding the boundaries - Special project within the II Moscow Biennale of Young Art, Moscow
State Academy of Industrial and Applied Arts, Moscow, Russia
Nordart 2010, Budelsdorf, Carlshutte, D
Art-Sanatorium, Moscow State Tretiakov Gallery, Moscow, Russia
No Translations, Moscow State art-center Na Povarskoi, Moscow, Russia
2009 CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE, Voronezh Center for Contemporary Art, Voronezh, Russia
PHOBIA, ArtBerloga, Moscow, Russia
Save as, Exhibition Hall Armenian 13, Moscow, Russia
Labor Movement, Special project within the III Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, Factory, Moscow,
Russia
Care, Exhibition Hall Armenian, 13, Moscow, Russia
Care, Divnogorje State Natural Park, Voronezh Region, Russia
MoskvApolis, Perm Museum of Contemporary Art, Perm, Russia
2008 Kinky Tags, Regina Gallery, Moscow, Russia
2007 Dialogues, VII Biennial of contemporary art, St.Petersburg, Russia
Space, Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Moscow, Russia
2006 Power, Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Moscow, Russia

www.reginagallery.com