

CENTRE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN GENÈVE

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PRESS DOSSIER

YURI LEIDERMAN

(*1963)

07.02–06.04.2008

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10, rue des Vieux-Grenadiers, 1205 Genève, info@centre.ch, www.centre.ch

YURI LEIDERMAN

07.02–06.04.2008

3rd floor

Opening February 6th, 6pm-9pm

INFORMATION AND IMAGES :

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Press service Marie-Avril Berthet

The Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève is pleased to present the first institutional exhibition in Switzerland by artist YURI LEIDERMAN.

Yuri Leiderman's work weaves an intricate set of references deriving from history, literature, ethnography, or geography. The artist resorts to pseudo-scientific methodology, applied to absurd postulates. Also calling himself a formalist, he uses various references to culture in collages that are found in his powerful installations, where superimpositions make for a blurred interpretation and, through what is not represented, puzzle and question our relationship to the world and to memory.

In the late 1980's, after studying chemistry, Yuri Leiderman (born 1962 in Odessa, Ukraine), developed a poetical work that uses painting, as well as literary texts, installations or performance. Based between Moscow and Berlin, his practice applies to subjects as diverse as scientific nomenclature, ethnographic stereotypes, music, or animal behaviour.

For his exhibition in Geneva, a mural work made with soup ("3rd Millennium", 2008) sits next to a televised debate between Michel Foucault and Noam Chomsky on the Vietnam War ("Vietnam: Violet Stripes", 2004). The artist works with confrontation: scientific rationality versus the disconcerting nature of avant-garde, personal experience versus classic references.

Amongst the presented works, a mural photograph entitled "Katyn Victims and Khatin Victims meet on a Dusty Road on the Hills near Cape Town" (2005) revisits a World War 2 event that still poisons the relations between Poland and Russia. The artist refers to various theoretical texts, amongst which Russian thinker N. F. Fyodorov's "Philosophy of the Common Task", published in 1906. This theory defines common good as an actual, physical revival of each and every person who has lived on earth so far. Then the victims seem to share, through their ascent in the air and through photomontage, a common and mysterious fate. Moreover, the monumental work is ornate with oriental decorations that add to mystery.

The whole arrangement of the exhibition physically translates this cacophony of references, as the same audio-video tape is played at simultaneous, non-synchronised pace on a dozen monitors scattered in the exhibition space. The artist awkwardly dances a kind of tribute to Trojan War heroes to an excerpt of Schubert's Fifth Symphony ("The Dances of Killed Trojans", 1999-2000). The clashing superimposition of musical lines recalls 1960's serial music, endowing the exhibition with a hypnotic effect.

"The Names of Electrons 2" (1999-2000) is yet another scientific experiment that is destined for failure. The installation soundtrack (the artist singing Wagner) attempts to activate relations

between the electrons of the copper tattoos on the Eskimos' cheeks that are drawn on paper. The copper plates are connected to light bulbs that never go on.

The performative dimension is essential in the artist's practice (he dances, sings, and recites texts). Through personal experience, he works towards the deconstruction of the apparent stability of, amongst other things, scientific knowledge or the memory work.

Yuri Leiderman's intense work can be seen as a game that needs decoding, and as strange poetry that questions our interpretation system and reveals our uncertainties.

exhibition in collaboration with IKON Gallery, Birmingham.

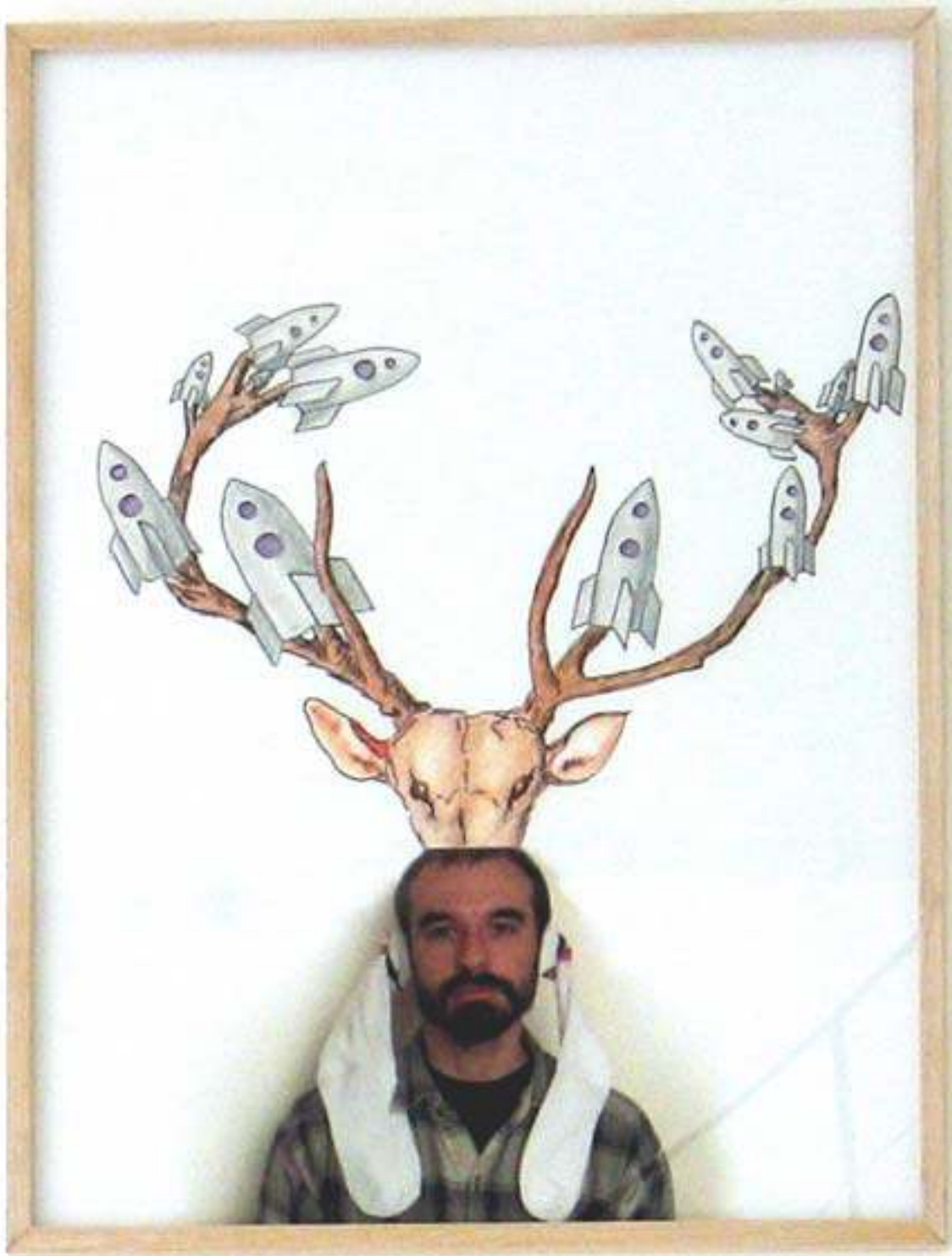
Curator: Denis Pernet

In partnership with:



The Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève is supported by the Ville de Genève, Département des affaires culturelles.

NEXT EXHIBITION : "RITE OF SPRING" (LA RIBOT & LIVE ART DEVELOPMENT AGENCY)
19.02 – 15.03.2008



Sans Titre, Autoportrait, 1999, courtesy galerie Michel Rein



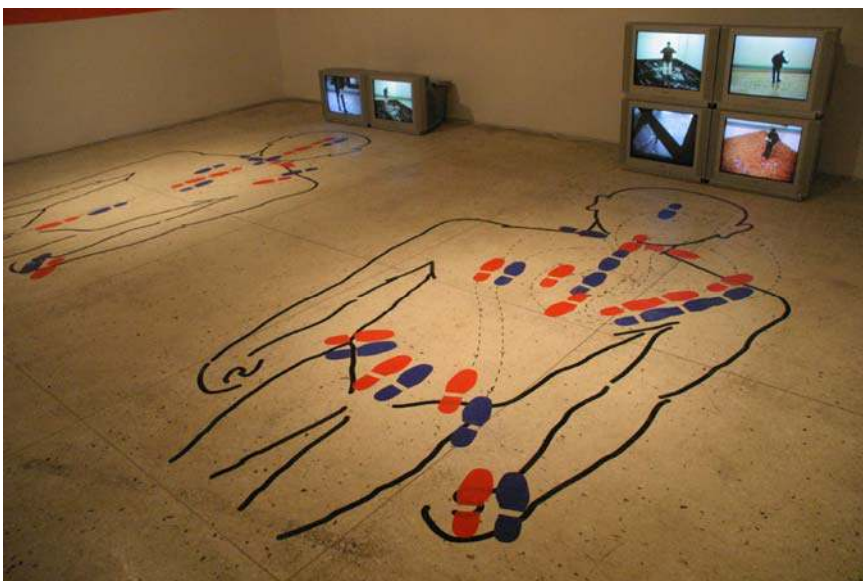
«Les victims de Katyn et les victims de Hatyn se rencontrent sur les collines poussiéreuses des environs de Cap Town», installation, 2005



« Le fasciste entre deux univers à ruban rouge », 2005



Installation « Les noms des électrons (esquimo-wagnérien) », 1999-2000



«Dance of the Killed Trojans» (installation at Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Siegen), 1999-2000, courtesy Yuri Leiderman.



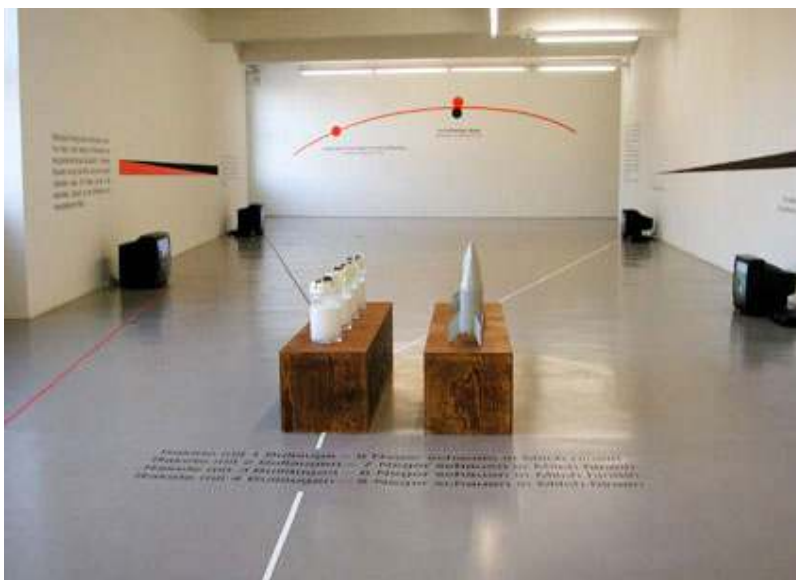
« Geopoetics II », Biennale of Shanghai, 2004



« Duchamp le Hassidique », video, 1988,
courtesy galerie Michel Rein



« Geopoetics IV », performance at
Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art, 2005



Installation view, GAK (Brême, Allemagne), 2003

LEIDERMAN YURI

(*1963)

Artist and writer, born in Odessa. Participated in apartment exhibitions in Moscow and Odessa since 1982. Graduated from the Moscow Institute of Chemical Technology in 1987. One of the founding members of the "Medical Hermeneutics" group in 1987, had left group in 1990. Awarded Andrei Belyi literature prize (2005). Resides and works in Berlin and Moscow.

Solo exhibitions

- 1989 The Museum of the Academy of Fine Arts, Warsaw
1990 Galerie Mladych, Prague (in a body of Medical Hermeneutics group)
Kunsthalle Dusseldorf (in a body of Medical Hermeneutics group)
1991 "Stabilisation of psychedelic phantasms", Krings-Ernst gallery, Cologne
1992 "The Pit and the Pendulum", Regina gallery, Moscow
"West in Space", Baykonur cosmodrome (in co-operation with A. Andora)
"The Hound of Baskervilles", Regina gallery, Moscow
"The Best and the Very Dubious", Skola gallery & 1.0 gallery, Moscow
"To Joseph Kosuth and Tlins civilisation", Vita Nova gallery, Minsk
1994 "Soccer WorldCup", Skola gallery, Moscow
"The Best and the Very Dubious", Inge Baecker gallery, Cologne
"Paris-Jura road /fragments/", Michel Rein gallery, Tours, France
1995 "The football teams lost", ART3, Valence, France
1996 "Apprendre l'histoire de l'Europe à un chat", FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, Reims, France
1997 "Eskimos", Overcoat gallery, Moscow
1998- "General reminder" (with Janos Sugar), Ludwig Museum, Budapest; Galeria
2000 Wyspa, Gdansk; Galerija Miroslav Kraljevic, Zagreb; TV Gallery, Moscow
1999 "Circles and Lumps", Galerija Skuc, Ljubljana
"Apprendre l'histoire de l'Europe à un chat et mesurer le bonheur en petits chiens", Michel Rein gallery, Tours, France
2000 "Electrons' names", Michel Rein gallery, Paris
"Odysseus and Diomedes", Galerija SULUJ, Belgrade
"Bill Beirne/Yuri Leiderman" (with Bill Beirne), TV gallery, Moscow
2002 "Géologues: Nord contre Sud", le Creux de l'Enfer, Thiers, France
"To give names to kefir grains", Herzliya Art Museum, Israel
"Achselhohlen eines Entenflugels", GAK, Bremen, Germany
2003 "Bare Buttocks Bremen flower", NCCA, Moscow
2004 Le Quartier, Quimper, France
"Les performances de Dima Blein", Galerie Michel Rein, Paris
"Kefir grains are going onto the flight", Galerija Gregor Podnar, Kranj, Slovenia
2005 "Rapport geopoétique", Musée d'art contemporain, Marseille
"Kolumbarienmaschinen", Elisabeth Kaufmann gallery, Zurich
2006 "On shore. The dances of killed Trojans", KU galerii, Tallinn
2007 "Here comes the Swiss captain home and sees: there is a round box on the table (Geopoetics-5)", Moscow Museum of modern art

Selected group exhibitions

- 1983 "Beyond the fence", AptArt, Moscow
1984 "Odessa exhibition", AptArt, Moscow
1987 1-st KLAVA exhibition, Moscow
1988 2-nd KLAVA exhibition, Moscow
"New Russians", Palace of Culture, Warsaw
1989 "Expensive Art", 3-rd KLAVA exhibition, Moscow
"Green show", ExitArt, New York

- "Moskau - Wien - New York", Messepalast, Vienna
 "Perspectives of conceptualism", 4-th KLAVA exhibition, Moscow
 1990 "Artisti Russi Contemporanei", Museo d`Arte Contemporanea, Prato, Italy
 "Between Spring and Summer", Tacoma ArtMuseum, Tacoma/WA/;ICA, Boston
 "In de USSR en Erbuiteiten", Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam
 "Catalogue", Synthesis Fine Arts, Moscow
 "The work of age of perestroika", Phyllis Kind gallery, New York
 "SchisoChina", 5-th KLAVA exhibition, Moscow
 1991 "Perspectives of conceptualism", The Clocktower gallery, New-York
 "Soviet contemporary art", Setagaya Art Museum, Tokyo
 "MANI Museum", Karmeliterkloster, Frankfurt/M
 "Sowietische Kunst um 1990", Kunsthalle Dusseldorf - CHA, Moscow
 "Solitary pursuits", "1-0"gallery, Moscow
 1992 "V Izbach", Dom kultury, Bratislava
 "...a Mosca...a Mosca", Galleria comunale d'Arte Moderna,Bologna and other pl.
 3-rd Istanbul Biennale, Istanbul
 1993 "Trio acoustico", CCC, Tours, France
 "Sonsbeek'93", Arnhem, Netherlands
 "Adresse provisoire l'art contemporein russe", Musee de la Poste, Paris
 "Fontanelle", Kunsthalle Potsdam, Germany
 "Passage de oriente", Venice Biennale, Venice
 "Exchange", Moscow
 "Identity – Selfhood", Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki
 1994 "Fluchtpunkt Moskau", Ludwigsforum, Aachen, Germany
 "Hamburg's project", CAC, Moscow
 "Workshop of visual anthropology", CAC, Moscow
 "Exchange II", Amsterdam
 1995 "No Man's Land", Nikolaj, Copenhagen
 "Kraftmessen", Munich
 Galerija Anonimus, Ljubljana
 1-st Kwangju Biennale, Kwangju, Korea
 "Fly, Leaving, Disappearing", Galerie hlavního mesta Prahy, Prague
 "Media Mundi", Britswert, Netherlands
 1996 "Interpol", Fargfabriken, Stockholm
 1-st European biennale Manifesta, Rotterdam
 "Borders of interpretation", Russian state humanitarian university, Moscow
 "Hello fair-tale", Contemporary Art Center, Moscow
 1997 "The verbal line...", Russian Centre, Budapest
 "Ecology of emptiness", ICA, Moscow
 "Take it of, Put it on, Leave it like that", Moscow
 "New enterings in Russian State Museum collection", S.-Petersburg, Moscow
 "Mystical correct", Hohenthal&Bergen gallery, Berlin
 1998 "Euroremont", Cultural centre "Slavjanskiy bazar", Moscow
 "Voyage", Musee de Valence, France
 "Hô !",Flemish cultural centre "De Brakke Grond", Amsterdam
 "Academy of Ice", Fine Arts Museum, Odessa
 11-th Biennale of Sydney
 "Präprintium", Staatsbibliothek Berlin; Universitat, Bremen
 "Ecozone", Art Manege'98, Moscow
 "Fauna", Malyi Manege, Moscow; Zacheta, Warsaw
 1999 "Total recall", TV gallery, Moscow
 "Act 99", Galerie Maerz, Linz
 "Fairy tales", Metamedia centre Plasy, Czech Republic
 "Distant similarities", Veleterzni palac, Prague
 "After the Wall", Moderna Museum, Stockholm (and other places)
 "Le fou dedouble", CHA, Moscow (and other places)
 2000 "Very delicate, sweet taste", University Library, Warsaw
 "L'Autre moitié de l'Europe", Jeu de Paume, Paris
 "Peripheral 4", Iasi, Romania

- “What, how & for whom”, Dom hdlu, Zagreb; Kunsthalle Exnergasse, Vienna
 “ARTEAST 2000+ International collection”, Moderna galerija, Ljubljana
 “Cooperativ”, Stadthaus, Ulm
 “La frontiere recit d’experiences”, Maison du livre/Institut d’art contemporain, Villeurbanne, France
- 2001 “Iskusstwo 2000”, Kunstverein Rosenheim, Germany
 “Small Talk”, Museum of Contemporary Art, Skopje
 “Never stop the action”, rotor, Graz
 “Konverzacija”, Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade
 “Geologists at sunset”, Fort Asperen, the Netherlands
 “Home made”, Stichting V/H de Gemeente, Leeuwarden, the Netherlands
- 2002 “Broadcasting”, Technical Museum, Zagreb
 “September horse”, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin
- 2003 “By the way...”, Moderna Galerija, Zagreb
 “Introducing Sites 2”, Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst, Leipzig
 “Incidence”, Art Moscow
 “Individual Systems”, 50th Biennale, Venice
 “Histoires contemporaines”, Institut d’art contemporain, Villeurbanne, France
 “Parasite Paradise”, Leidsche Rijn, the Netherlands
 “Berlin/Moskau”, Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin
 “Art in variable gravity”, Cornerhouse, Manchester
- 2004 “Shrinking cities”, KunstWerke, Berlin
 “Techniques of the Visible”, Shanghai Biennale
 “Flipside”, Artists Space, New York
 “7 sins”, Moderna Galerija, Ljubljana
- 2005 “Reflections”, NCCA, Moscow
 “Avenirs de Villes”, Site Alstom, Nancy
 “One/And another/About”, City Art Museum, Ljubljana
 “Second present”, Trafo gallery, Budapest
- 2006 Trajectory1 “The sun on the wall”, Exhibition hall “Arsenal”, Riga
 “Voices of silence”, Herzliya Art Museum, Israel
 Common Destination, The Drawing Center, New York
- 2007 “Tanzen, Sehen”, Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Siegen, Germany
 2nd Moscow Biennale

Public collections

State Russian Museum, St.Petersbourg; State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow; Ludwig Museum, Budapest; New Ludwig Collection, Aachen; Center of Contemporary Art Luigi Pecci, Prato, Italy; National Gallery Victoria, Melbourne; FNAC, Paris; FRAC Rhone-Alps, Villeurbanne; FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, Reims; “ARTEAST 2000+”, Ljubljana; Musée d’art contemporain, Marseille; etc.

Author's books and personal catalogues

- S. Anufriev, Ju.Leiderman, P.Pepperstein, “Auf sechs Buchern”, Dusseldorf, 1990
 Y.Leiderman, “Nailuchshee I Ochen somnitelnoe”, **M**oscow, 1992
 S.Anufriev, Y.Leiderman, P.Pepperstein, “Ideotechnique and Recreation”, Moscow, 1994
 Y.Leiderman, “La route Jura-Paris”, Tours, 1995
 Y.Leiderman, “Imena elektronov”, St.-Petersbourg., 1997
 Y.Leiderman, “Circles and Lumps”, Galerija Skuc, Ljubljana, 1999
 Y.Leiderman, J.Sugar, “General Reminder”, Ludwig Museum, Budapest, 1999
 Y.Leiderman “Docteurs-pêcheurs et partis du bonheur général”, Art3, le Creux de l’enfer, France, 2001
 Y.Leiderman, “Ensemblement”, le Quartier, Quimper, 2004
 Y.Leiderman, “Olor”, NLO, Moscow, 2004 (Andrei Belyi prize)