



In the middle of 1990-s, amid the ruins of the Soviet system, pepped up by the breeze of unlimited freedom, two men set out to build up a New Russian Paradise. Two decades later they ascended to the Olympus of the most expensive living contemporary Russian artists, with record prices at Sotheby's and Philips de Pury. The legendary Moscow duo, Vladimir Dubossarsky (°1964) and Alexander Vinogradov (°1963) are called 'artists of the generation'. No coincidence, their works appear on the covers of books by postmodernist writer Victor Pelevin, the author of the cult novel 'Generation P', which describes the formation of new capitalist businessmen, former members of Komsomol, who would rule the new state. 'P' stands in the title for 'Pepsi', the symbol of desired Western world's material happiness, absorbed, like by a sponge, by those, who would form the country's first business, political and media elite.

ZEITGESIT OF WILD NINTIES

For a Western viewer, who looking at the bright coloured canvases would probably question, was it is all about, let me make a quick introduction to what Russia was in 1990-s. 'Nineties', a neutral word in English, if pronounced in the Russian language, reveals multiply layers of associations, familiar to everyone in the country, who has survived the period. For those born in 2000-s, Millennium children, who read about 'raspberry-red jackets', 'racketing', 'new Russians' and Yeltsin in articles and history books, it will remain a text. Not for those who had to live through. The so-called 'wild 90-s'.



Russian Troika. A Painting for a Travel Agency. 1995. Oil on canvas. 240 x 435 cm. Private collection, Moscow.

'It was a time of deep economic crisis and disastrous infrastructural decline, when art, withdrawn into a narrow tight knit community, inhabited the institutional ruins of the previous era lying prone by the wayside of the direction that society was moving in. It was precisely then that the new prospects for art were formulated in unison with the new challenges for society as defined by the liberal reformers. And it was precisely at this time that Dubossarsky and Vinogradov's project was fully formulated. Characteristically in the context of a society in reform, the main theme of artistic discussion was social planning - a new system of art conforming to international parameters that had arrived in a rudimentary form in Russia at the time and which was imbued with the greatest expectations', describes a critic and curator of contemporary art Viktor Misiano.

In contrast to the 1980-s, when the cultural life in the U.S.S.R., led in the absence of market as such, isolated from the ideologically 'unclean' outside world, was a subject to censorship, 1990-s, after Perestroika and the fall of the Iron Curtain witnessed paradigm shift. "Money, which up till then had, strictly speaking, meant nothing, now meant everything. And the high priests of this cult of cash were the engineers of the 90s: the gangsters and the "New Russians", comments Artemy Troitsky, Russian journalist, music critic, broadcaster and academic ('A Look at the 1990s, A Decade of Sex, Drugs and Excess', 'The Moscow Times', 04/2015) "Both groups were mobsters, really — the latter were just a touch more humane and refined: instead of Adidas trainers and raspberry-red jackets they wore black Calvin Klein jeans. Russia suddenly switched from a position of "everything is forbidden" to "nothing is off-limits": one-sixth of the world's surface found itself in a state of actual anarchy. The government reacted only to the day-to-day political agenda, and all the rest was just left to its own devices, with the mantra being "grab as much as you can. In theory, this all sounds fantastic: freedom, a fresh start, 'unlimited impossibilities'. In practice, however, it all came out a bit twisted. Those survivors of the 80s underground still living in the country were busy trying to capitalize on the heroic past; the phrase "If you're so smart/talented, then how come you're so poor?" served as an irrefutable psychological imperative. And the first thing that the new generation of anti-Soviet youth did, once they'd been given carte blanche, was to pile on the pleasure." Troitsky describes the newly formed Russian music, cinema, design and media scene, mixed in a stew of glamour, cocaine chic of night clubs, first pop-videos, loose women and criminality.



Baby, I'm Still in the Office'. 1996. Oil on canvas. 145 x 180 cm. Collection Mikhail Karminsky

As an antidote to the far from bright reality of everyday life and reacting on the communicational media ecstasy, in which the society lived, Dubossarsky and Vinogradov created the new artistic language, encompassing vibrant colours, sun-lit Russian landscapes, Hollywood heroes and typical personages of 90s, business/mafia-men, surrounded by women. Therefrom, Schwarzenegger demonstrating biceps to schoolchildren in 'Drawing Lesson. Painting for school' (1995), Terminator surrounded by the flowers on a river bank in 'Hot Summer' (1996), businessman calling his wife in 'Baby, I'm Still in the Office' (1996). The language, which was adequate to the horizons of wide audience, nurtured by mass media. In the circumstances of absence of a system in Russian contemporary art in 1990s, when the almost sectarian elitist underground art community with its refined intellectualism, previously opposed to the state, became not any more actual, when former sublime understanding of an aristocratic artist was gone, the duo project started to build a new prospective, aimed at conquering the mind of masses. Dubossarsky retells with a smile that the carry-man, while delivering their painting 'Russian Troika' had a fascinating interpretation of it: it's Russia-Motherland rushing, chased by evil, running out of bullets. Possessing a great sensibility for the spirit of the era and functioning almost like social engineers, Dubossarsky & Vinogradov expressed the 'zeitgeist'.



Drawing lesson. Painting for school. 1995. 240 x 200 cm. Oil on canvas. Collection Olga Slutzker.

ART SIMPLE AS 'MOOING'

'...I will open for you
With words,
Simple as mooing
Our new souls,
Whistling,
Like street lamp's arches.'

Vladimir Mayakovsky. 1913

The project 'Dubossarsky & Vinogradov' appeared on the increasingly radical Moscow art scene, in the context formed by the Moscow Conceptualist movement. Craftsmanship, acquired at Surikov Moscow State Academy Art Institute played an important role in their practice. To the radicalism of action art and to the esoterics of Conceptualist art, the duo opposed traditional works, made in aesthetics of socialist realism. Monumental painting, the main genre chosen by Dubossarsky & Vinogradov, suppresses the viewer with its size, a riot of colours, the involved labour of the creators. Discredited aesthetics of socialist realism was supposed to shock the art community, no less than any radical performance. However, a painting, in comparison to conceptual or action art, is a form of message, which is simple and clear to uninitiated. Unlike the radicals, who created the image of an anti-hero, terrorist and anarchist provocateur, Dubossarsky & Vinogradov sought to take the place of positive heroes of post-Perestroika Russia. The synthesis of a new Russian style, which, on the one hand, would not conflict with the mass tastes, but on the other hand would be able to provoke misunderstanding (misunderstanding - the main attribute of interest) in the art community, has become one of their main tasks. Moreover, a lack of understanding in terms of the collapse of the traditional interpretative schemes, the total economic and social instability of the state, paradoxically, could only be achieved through the demonstration as a clear, unconditional, simple gesture. It was indeed achieved. Critics were lost, guessing what the art of the duo was – another loop of socialist art in the different political conditions, deliberate debility, intellectual infantilism or apologetics of the new Russian state. Common audience had no need in de-coding. They saw in the duo's paintings familiar images: idols, pop-stars, glamorous pretty women, Barbie and Teddy bear. Art simple as 'mooing'. Obviously, all the interpretations are right. It is the result of the fragmented, schizophrenic reality of the country after Perestroika.



Hot summer. 1996. Oil on canvas. 140 x 170 cm. Private collection, Vienna.



HARVEST FESTIVAL. OIL ON CANVAS. 1995. 200 X 450 CM



ABOVE THE KREMLIN. OIL IN CANVAS. 2006

ARTISTS

Vladimir Dubossarsky

1964 born in Moscow

1980-1984 studied in the Moscow Art College named in memory of the 1905 revolution

1988-1991 studied in Moscow State Art Institute named after Surikov

Corresponding member of the Academy of Arts

Lives and works in Moscow

Alexander Vinogradov

1963 born in Moscow

1980-1984 studied in the Moscow Art College named in memory of the 1905 revolution

1989-1995 studied in Moscow State Art Institute named after Surikov

Corresponding member of the Academy of Arts

Lives and works in Moscow

Since 1994 work together

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2013

Painters of Russian Life. Kunsthal KAdE, Amersfoort, Netherlands

2012

Retrospective. Center for contemporary art Winzavod, Moscow; Triumph Gallery, Moscow

X. Ten. Mystetzy Arsenal, Kiev

2011

For Valour. Triumph Gallery, Moscow

Khimki - Life. Vilma Gold Gallery, London

2010

On the Block 2. Triumph Gallery, Moscow

Khimki - Life. Paperworks Gallery, Moscow

On the Block. Charlotte Moser Gallery, Geneva

2009

Danger! Museum. 53rd Venice Biennale, Venice

2008

The New People Are Already Here. Deitch Projects, New York

Meander. Resort Pirogovo, Moscow Region

Vladimir Dubossarsky & Alexander Vinogradov. Vilma Gold Gallery, London

2007

Dans l'atelier de l'artiste. Orel Art Galerie, Paris

Four Seasons of Russian Painting. The State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow

2006

Anthills. XL Gallery. Moscow

The Lightness of Being. Resort Pirogovo, Moscow Region - XL Gallery. Moscow CATALOGUE

Underwater Barber. Paperworks Gallery, Moscow

2005

Vladimir Dubossarsky & Alexander Vinogradov. Charlotte Moser Gallery, Geneva

New Painting. XL Gallery, Moscow BOOKLET

9 Nudes Series. Orel Art Galerie, Paris

Graphic Works of Different Years. Paperworks Gallery, Moscow

Under Water. National Center for Contemporary Art, «Arsenal» Exhibition Hall, Nizhnij Novgorod

2004

Aquafitness. Vilma Gold Gallery, London

Underwater World. XL Gallery, Moscow CATALOGUE

2003

Our Best World. Deitch Projects, New York

Astrakhan Blues. XL Gallery, Moscow BOOKLET

Raining. Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna

Underwater Forever. Orel Art Galerie, Paris CATALOGUE

2002

Total Painting. XL Gallery, Moscow BOOKLET

Painting for Finland. MUU Galerie, Helsinki

Vladimir Dubossarsky & Alexander Vinogradov. Vilma Gold Gallery, London

2001

How Are You, Ladies and Gentlemen? Gallery Claudio Poleschi, Lucca BOOKLET

Picture for London. Vilma Gold Gallery, London

Sweet Girls. Moscow Fine Art Gallery, Moscow

2000

Inspiration. XL Gallery, Moscow BOOKLET

Flying Crans. Moscow Fine Art Gallery, Moscow

1999

Christ in Moscow. XL Gallery, Moscow BOOKLET
Just Pictures. Moscow Fine Art Gallery, Moscow

1998

P.S. Guelman Gallery, Moscow

1997

Erntedankfest. Atelier-Ester Freund, Vienna
Austrian and Russian Literature. Brasilica, Vienna
Etudes. L-Gallery, Moscow

1996

Russian Literature. Guelman Gallery, Moscow CATALOGUE
Triumph. Guelman Gallery, Moscow
Bluhende Landschaften. Galerie Kai Higelman, Berlin
Project for Russian "Playboy". Moscow Fine Art Gallery, Moscow

1995

A Picture for the Reichstag. Galerie Kai Hilgemann, Berlin
Paintings Made to Order. L- Gallery, Moscow

1994

Picasso in Moscow. Studio 20 Gallery, Moscow

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**2011**

From Russia with Love. Palazzo Panichi e Museo Virtuale piazza Duomo, Pietrasanta (Lucca)
Inspiration Dior. The Pushkin State Museum of Fine Art, Moscow
Weltraum. Die Kunst und ein Traum. Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna
Russian Art. Sem-Art Gallery, Monaco

2010

Contrepoint, L'art Contemporain Russe – De L'icône à L'avant-garde en Passant par le Musée. Louvre, Paris

2009

From A Study to An Art-Object. Moscow Museum of Modern Art
21 RUSSIA. Group exhibition of the contemporary Russian artists. PinchukArtCentre, Kiev

2008

Thaw: Russian Art From Glasnost to the Present. Selections from the Guelman Collection. Chelsea Art Museum, New York
Heaven for Artists. The 2008 Centre Georges Pompidou Exhibition. Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul CATALOGUE
Russian Dreams. The Bass Museum, Miami CATALOGUE
A(r)R(ussia)T(oday)-index. LNMM Latvijas Nacionālais Mākslas Muzejs, Riga

2007-2008

Sots Art. Art politique en Russie de 1972 à aujourd'hui. La Maison Rouge, Париж

2007

I Believe (in the framework of the 2nd Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art). Contemporary Art Center Winzavod, Moscow CATALOGUE
Exhibition of the Kandinsky Prize Nominees. Contemporary Art Center Winzavod, Moscow CATALOGUE
CARTOONS. Comics in Contemporary Art. Castel Sant'Elmo, Naples
Every Picture Tells a Story. Artyemy Troitsky Collection. D-137 Gallery, St. Petersburg
Thaw, or In the Middle of the Road. To the 15th Anniversary of Guelman Gallery. State Russian Museum, Marble Palace, St. Petersburg
Sots-art. Political Art in Russia. State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow

2006

The Triumph of Painting. Part 6. The Saatchi Gallery, London
Sound & Vision. Museo della Città, Perugia
Hundert Küsse sind besser als einer. Krinzinger Projekte, Vienna

2005-2006

RUSSIA! Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York - Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao CATALOGUE

2005

RUSSIA 2 (in the framework of the 1st Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art). Central House of Artist, Moscow CATALOGUE
STARZ (in the framework of the 1st Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art). Moscow Museum of Modern Art CATALOGUE
Accomplices. Collective and Interactive Art in Russian Art in 1960's-2000's (in the framework of the 1st Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art). State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow CATALOGUE
Angels of History. MUHKA (Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst), Antwerp CATALOGUE
Russian Pop-art. State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow BOOKLET

2004-2005

Seven Sins. Moderna Galerija Ljubljana, Ljubljana

2004

Se Opp! Kunst fra Moskva og St. Petersburg. Museet for Samtidkunst, Oslo CATALOGUE
Expander. Royal Academy of Arts, London CATALOGUE
Love, Erotica and Sex in Art of 20th and 21st century. Exhibition hall "Na Solianke", Moscow
Transversalities Russes. Orel Art Galerie, Paris CATALOGUE
Beyond The Red Horizon. New Art from Poland and Russia. Centrum Sztuki Wspolczesnej «Ujazdowski Castle», Warsaw CATALOGUE
Candyland Zoo. Herbert Read Gallery, University College for the Creative Arts, Canterbury, Great Britain

2003-2004

Moscow - Берлин. Berlin - Moskau. Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin - State Historical museum, Moscow KATAJIOГ

2003

Returning of the Artist. Russian pavilion, Giardini di Castello, Venice CATALOGUE
Neue Ansätze. Zeitgenössische Kunst aus Moskau. Kunsthalle, Düsseldorf CATALOGUE
International Festival of Contemporary Art ARTKliazma. Vacation Center "Klyazminskoe Reservoir", Moscow region CATALOGUE
New Countdown. Digital Russia together with SONY. Central House of Artist, Moscow CATALOGUE
Mother Nature. Vilma Gold Gallery, London
Dirty Pictures. The Approach E2, London
Suivi de chantier. Work in progress. Suzanne Tarasiève Galerie, Paris

2002

Urgent painting. Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris CATALOGUE
DAVAI! Russian Art Now. Aus dem Laboratorium der freien Künste in Russland. Postfuhrant, Berlin - Österreichisches Museum für Angewandte Kunst (MAK), Vienna CATALOGUE
Contemporary Russian Painting. Exhibition hall "New Manezh", Moscow CATALOGUE
Metropolitan Iconographies. 25th Bienal de Sao Paulo. Pavilhão da Bienal, Sao Paulo CATALOGUE
Moscow Time. Contemporary art center, Vilnius - Memorial museum "Nizhegorodskaja Radio Laboratory", Nizhnij Novgorod CATALOGUE
ART MOSCOW Studio. Central House of Artist, Moscow
International Festival of Contemporary Art ARTKliazma. Vacation Center "Klyazminskoe Reservoir", Moscow region CATALOGUE
Portrait. Moscow Fine Art Gallery, Moscow

2001-2003

Moscow: Paradise. Salzburg - Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna - Galerie der Stadt Wels, Wels CATALOGUE

2001

Made in Italy. Palazzo della Triennale, Milan
Russian Madness. 1st Biennale de Valencia, Las Atarazanes, Valencia CATALOGUE
Players. Watermill Center of Robert Wilson, Watermill, USA
Russian Artists in Vienna. Schloss Grafenegg, Vienna
Escape. 2nd Tirana Biennale, Tirana CATALOGUE
ART MOSCOW Studio. Central House of Artist, Moscow CATALOGUE
Warhol Connection. L-Gallery, Moscow
Fathers and Children. State Museum of Literature, Moscow
Summer Vacation. Moscow Fine Art Gallery, Moscow
Dream Team. XL Gallery, Moscow CATALOGUE
Ein Tieferes Deutschland. Exhibition hall "Na Kashirke", Moscow

2000

I Hate You in June. Museum of Art, Ein Harod, Israel CATALOGUE
In & Out. 1st Tirana Biennale, Tirana CATALOGUE
Art Against Geography. State Russian Museum, Marble Palace, St. Petersburg CATALOGUE
Fuori USO 2000: The Bridges. Associazione Culturale Arte Nova, Pescara CATALOGUE
Vilnius Painting Triennale. Contemporary art center, Vilnius
Dinamic Couples. Central exhibition hall "Manezh", Moscow - National Center for Contemporary Art, Nizhnij Novgorod - Pushkinskaja, 10, St. Petersburg BOOK
Kunst und Raum. Galerie Kai Hilgemann, Berlin

1999

Collection of Galina Osezimskaja. Artists of 1990's. Central exhibition hall "Manezh", Moscow CATALOGUE

1998-1999

Fauna. Exhibition hall "New Manezh", Moscow - National Center for Contemporary Art, Nizhnij Novgorod - Galeria Sztuki Współczesnej "Zacheta", Warsaw CATALOGUE

1998

Paysage Russe de la fin du XX siècle. Peintures et photographies. Galerie Russe du Centre, Genève CATALOGUE
Summer Vacation. Moscow Fine Art Gallery, Moscow
Motherland. House-Museum of Ilya Repin, Shiriaev village, Samara region CATALOGUE
Names Central exhibition hall "Manezh", Moscow CATALOGUE

1997

Back and Forth. III Cetinje Biennial. Cetinje, Montenegro
Take It Off. Put It On. Never Take It Off Again. Moscow Forum of Art Initiatives. Exhibition hall "New Manezh", Moscow CATALOGUE
Moscow - Uriupinsk. To Russia with Love. Local History Museum, Uriupinsk CATALOGUE
It's a Better World. Russischer Aktionismus und sein Kontext. Secession, Vienna CATALOGUE
History in Faces. Art Museum, Novosibirsk - Picture Gallery, Nizhnij Novgorod - Regional Art Museum, Samara - Museum of Fine Arts, Ekaterinburg - Art Museum, Perm CATALOGUE
Miss Moscow-850. Moscow Fine Art Gallery, Moscow

1996

Aesthetic Attitudes of Art to Reality. Moscow Forum of Art Initiatives. Exhibition hall "New Manezh", Moscow CATALOGUE

1995

Zeigenössische Kunst aus Russland. Daimler-Benz Aerospace, Munich
Interregnum. Russische Kunst zur Zeit. Kunsthalle, Nürnberg CATALOGUE
Russian Beauty. Centre for Contemporary Art, Moscow, Moscow
Reproduction - Mon Amour (A.Shulgin project). Contemporary Art Center "Nikolaj", Copenhagen CATALOGUE

1994

II Cetinjski Bienale. Vladin Dom; Rusko Poslanstvo, Cetinje, Montenegro CATALOGUE
Reproduction - Mon Amour (A.Shulgin project). "Laboratory" Gallery, Moscow

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow
State Russian Museum, St. Petersburg
Moscow Museum of Modern Art
Moscow House of Photography
Museum of Contemporary Art Art4.ru, Moscow
Ivanovo Regional Art Museum, Ivanovo, Russia
Yaroslavl Art Museum, Yaroslavl, Russia
Christian Dior Collection, Paris
Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris Musée d'art contemporain, Avignon
Secession, Vienna
Haus für Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Bonn
Scheringa Museum voor Realisme, Spanbroek, Netherlands
Museo Arte Contemporanea (MACI), Isernia, Italy
Instituto Valenciano de Arte Moderno (IVAM), Valencia
The Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, USA
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA
"Ekaterina" Cultural Foundation, Moscow
"New" Foundation, Moscow
"New Rules" Foundation, Moscow