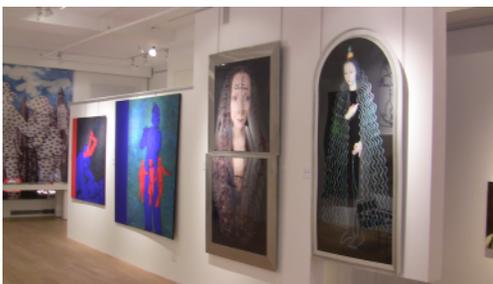




ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2009



Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art has finally opened its doors on Broadway in NoHo, several blocks away from The New Museum in SoHo. It took two years of remodeling to convert an old abandoned factory into an ultra-modern, elegant, 3000+ square foot gallery space. Alexandre Gertsman, the Gallery



*Photo by Alexandre Gertsman*

Director and an architect from the Ukraine, collaborated on the design with the talented New York/Berlin architect Annette Goderbauer, who had worked for years with the award-winning architect Steven Holl. With a main exhibition space, an adjacent smaller gallery, and a system of moving walls, the space was also designed to be convertible to accommodate exclusive private and cultural events.

Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art has the USA's largest collection of paintings, sculptures, photographs, works on paper, and mixed-media works of art by over 50 contemporary, Russian-born artists. "This is practically the only art gallery in the USA where the most important artists of the Soviet and post-Soviet time are represented," said the **New Russian Word** newspaper.



*Tatiana Nazarenko, Alexandre Gertsman, Natalya Nesterova at the opening reception of Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art gallery (photo by Oleg March)*



*Vitaly Komar, Alexandre Gertsman, Anna Halberstadt at the opening reception of Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art gallery (photo by Oleg March)*

Mr. Gertsman was the Founder and President of the International Foundation of Russian and Eastern European Art (INTART), as well as the American Friends of the Tretyakov Gallery Foundation. Over the course of 17 years he has curated more than 50 traveling museum exhibitions of contemporary Russian art at major museums throughout the world, including The National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C., The State Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow, The Ludwig Forum Museum in Aachen, Germany, The State Russian Museum in St. Petersburg, The Art Museum of the Yeshiva University in New York, and the National Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C. He also acted as a consultant to those museums as well as corporations and private collectors, organized major

fundraising and cultural events - his last Gala took place in Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York, before finally deciding to open his own gallery in Manhattan.

The inaugural exhibition *Through the Past to the Future* features works by 19 of the foremost Russian-born artists of their generation: Ivan Chuikov, Vladimir Clavijo-Telepnev, Alla Esipovich, Semyon Faibisovich, Evgeny Fyks, Rimma Gerlovina & Valery Gerlovin, Ilya Kabakov, Komar & Melamid, Alexander Kosolapov, Tatiana Nazarenko, Natalya Nesterova, Boris Orlov, George Pusenkoff, Mikhail Roginsky, Leonid Sokov, Olga Tobreluts, and Oleg Vassiliev.



*Photo by Alexandre Gertsman*



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*Through the Past to the Future* does not revolve around a particular artist or stylistic school, but brings together myriad personal histories and artistic modes with the same conceptual goal in mind: to examine the ways in which Russian culture has been - and is still being - influenced and (re)created by its past; what bearing history and nostalgia have on the present creation of future culture. Although much of post-modern art has meant, in the West, a free dialogue between the artist and his or her socio political environment, Russian artists working in a post-modern vein indulge in a dialogue with their past, using Soviet history to clarify their encounters with contemporary society and art.

“Mr. Gertsman’s use of the word nostalgia in connection with this complex, conceptually based art is that yes, it celebrates the death of the old state-ordered Socialist Realism, but that while deploring or satirizing the past it also looks back with longing to the Russia that was, and to the failed ideas of its Communist revolution,” wrote the **New York Times**.

The artists on exhibit have been seen in the most well-known venues and exhibits for the contemporary art scene: Documenta in Kassel, Biennales in Venice, Moscow, Istanbul and Sao Paulo. They are in the permanent collections of prestigious museums ranging from the Metropolitan, MoMA and the Guggenheim Museum in New York to the Tate Gallery in London, Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, Museum of Modern Art in Vienna, Berlin National Gallery of Art, Canadian National Gallery, Australian National Gallery, The State Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow, and The State Russian Museum in St. Petersburg. These artists have received major



*Photo by Alexandre Gertsman*

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Russian national art awards – the State Prize and the Triumph Award - and were nominated for the Kandinsky Prize.

The majority of these artists were shown at the Solomon R. Guggenheim's museum highly-acclaimed RUSSIA! exhibition in 2005-2006 in New York, for which Mr. Gertsman was member of the Leadership Committee.

We are optimistic about 2010, for the art market is recovering. As John Varoli wrote in his **Bloomberg News** wrap-up article *Russian Art Snapped Up in \$65.6 Million Auction, Best in a Year* about the December 2009 auction

sales, "four London auction houses sold 39.7 million pounds (\$65.7 million) of Russian art in four days of sales this week as wealthy collectors returned to the market after a year of declines in prices and demand. The total was an increase of 37 percent over the market's low in June." Experts thus believe that now - with the price of oil rising and worldwide economies starting their recovery - is the last chance for collectors to get the works they desire at the so called "crisis prices," before prices jump up sharply in the spring.



Mikhail and Elena Aleksandrov, Alexandre Gertsman, Etery Lobzhanidze, Vasily Kafanov at the opening reception of Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art gallery (photo by Oleg March)

Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art has already planned group and solo exhibitions through 2011. The upcoming 2010 – 2011 exhibitions will present to American art lovers works by internationally recognized artists, Russian-based artists established in their motherland but not yet well known abroad, and young emerging artists.

The gallery is located at 652 Broadway, Floor 2, off Bleeker Street, and is by appointment only.

For further information please visit [www.agcontemporaryart.com](http://www.agcontemporaryart.com) or call 646-344-1325.

**WE WISH YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND A PROSPEROUS 2010, SURROUNDED BY RUSSIAN ART!  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**