



Ferry «Piret»
wood, gesso, tempera,
45×35×3 cm, 2024

Galerie Dix9 is pleased to introduce

Alexander Morozov

NO SAND IN THE SKY

curated by Azad Asifovich & Elena Merkulova

23.03–11.05.2024

Opening March 23 — 15h / 20h in presence of the artist

GALERIE DIX9 Hélène Lacharmoise

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NO SAND IN THE SKY

For his first solo exhibition in France, Alexander Morozov, Russian artist of Ukrainian origin, presents at Galerie Dix9 a new project based mainly on his recent artistic production. The painter, who left Russia in 2022*, places at the centre of this exhibition a series of images «objects»: tempera on wood that represent fragments of a lived reality.

Temperas protected by several layers of varnish, enter into a subtle dialogue with the (interior) light they reflect. They face a series of watercolors assembled in a compact mass on a wall of the gallery, fixing on paper some lived moments, like a diary. Products of an artistic practice based on memory, this series reveals the photographic spectra stolen from the real by Morozov during his long journey of assumed exile.

In fact, Morozov seeks more to transmit a process than a result. The first step in this work consists in capturing, by digital photography, what he calls the “interstices of reality”. For example, the look of a Turkish stray dog, happy to have been fed, or a view overlooking the interior of an Estonian boat. These optical prints are then transformed. They are captured in the instantaneity of watercolour, or by the meticulous technique of tempera on wood: «levkas».

The levkas is a white coating posed as the background of the icon. It reflects the pigments so as to obtain a surface particularly bright. The main component of this coating is calcium carbonate, an organic fossil. This gives the technique an «original» connotation. In this sense, levkasé is traditionally considered a metaphysical receptacle for icons. Morozov invests this support with figurations apparently innocuous. In reality, they put us in the presence of a lived experience.

Visual notebook to be shared, *No sand in the sky* therefore brings us at the border between reality and experience. Morozov would have overcome the condition of exile by paying attention to insignificant things. That is, he focuses on the «liminal spaces», which mark the transition from optical information to sensitive interpretation. To do this, the artist carefully collected his phenomenal impressions, along his sinuous trajectory between Estonia, Turkey and France.

Between the composite film and the single image, the conscious accumulation of sensations and the optical unconscious, the network of common meanings and the absence of subject, the insignificance of trauma and the desire to make sense: there are openings and possible reconciliations. These are considered during the aesthetic journey of the artist.

The title of the exhibition refers to the Prussian tale *The Sandman*, written at the beginning of the 19th century by E.T.A. Hoffmann. The hero of the tale must overcome the hallucinatory madness of the spectre that haunts him. *No sand in the sky* resumes the impossibility of going back. Alexander Morozov simply tries to materialize the pain of such an observation.



Public light
watercolor, paper, 42×30 cm, 2024

* February 24, 2022 — the start of the war in Ukraine



Lamp
wood, gesso, tempera,
42×32×3 cm, 2014



Fisherman's boat
wood, gesso, tempera, 44×33×3 cm, 2024



Witch Flowers
wood, gesso, tempera, 44×33×3 cm, 2024



Work Trousers
wood, gesso, tempera,
42×32×3 cm, 2014



Sign
wood, gesso, tempera, 28×29×3 cm,
2024

BIOGRAPHY

Born in Voroshilovgrad (Luhansk), USSR in 1974. Lives and works in Paris, France

Education

Luhansk Art College, Ukraine (1989–1994)
Graduated from The Academy of Fine Arts in St Petersburg, Russia (1996–2002)
Educational program in ProArte Institute 'Practicum. New Technology in Contemporary Art' (Prof. Alexey Shulgin), St Petersburg, Russia (1999–2000)

Solo shows

2023

Paris diary, Cité internationale des arts, Paris, FR

2022

Whisper, Artplay Open Museum, Moscow, RU

2021

The rest, KultProject Gallery, Moscow, RU

2019

Railway Opera, Russian Railways Museum, St Petersburg, RU
Tired plastic, Museum-apartment of Lev Gumilyov, St Petersburg, RU
Birds Flight Records, PAS, Berlin, DE

2018

Akchim. coordinates, The Perm State Art Gallery, Perm, RU

2017

Simple things, Triumph Gallery, Moscow, Moscow, RU
Masses, Sphere Contemporary Art Foundation, Moscow, RU

2016

Politia, Centre for creative industries Fabrika, Moscow, RU
Space Lines, Zarya Center for Contemporary Art, Vladivostok, RU

2015

Cosa Mentale, Marina Gisich Gallery, St Petersburg, RU
Garden, Book Graphics Library, St Petersburg, RU

2012

Factum, Luda Express gallery in 'New Holland' open air art space, St Petersburg, RU
Human Factor, with Alexander Artemov, Algallery, St Petersburg, RU
Cinderella Effect, Navicula Artis gallery, St Petersburg, RU

2010

Radiation, Navicula Artis gallery, St Petersburg, RU

2009

The Classical Garden of German Romanticism, Botanical Museum, St Petersburg, RU

Selected group shows

2023

Colonial Endurance. Detecting the Algorithm of Violence in Infrastructures, Nieuwe Instituut, Rotterdam, NL

2022

Communication, Studio 44, Stockholm, SE
Futu Muhu 2022 / Flora & fauna, Kadriorg Gallery, Tallinn, ES
The Thinking Landscape, Museum of Moscow, Moscow, RU

2021

Passion according to Faust, The Saint-Petersburg State Museum of Theatre and Music, St Petersburg, RU
Evident movements, House of Culture Gromov, St Petersburg, RU

Exhibition of nominees for the Zverev Art Priz, CCA Winzavod, Moscow, RU

Exhibition of nominees for the 13th Kandinsky Prize, MMOMA, Moscow, RU
Intensive Places, Estonian Museum of Contemporary Art, Tallinn, ES

2020

2nd Garage Triennial of Russian Contemporary art, Moscow, RU
NEMOSKVA is Just Around the Corner. Central Exhibition Hall Manege, St Petersburg, RU

2019

Exhibition of nominees for the Kandinsky Prize, MMOMA, Moscow, RU
Angels in the art of XX-XXI centuries, The State Russian Museum, St Petersburg, RU
Exhibition of nominees for the XI Kuryokhin Prize, Sergey Kuryokhin Center, St Petersburg, RU
Portal Zaryadye, Wing «Ruin» of the Shchusev Architecture Museum, Moscow, RU

2018

Russia. Realism. XXI Century, The State Museum of Fine Arts of the Republic of Tatarstan, Kazan, RU
Other shores, Central Exhibition Hall Manege, St Petersburg, RU
Modeling the space. Bergold Center, St Petersburg, RU

2017

Trap for stars, Gallery Kultproekt, Moscow, RU
Futu Muhu Festival 100 Years, EAA Muhu A.I. Residency, ES
10 Festival CYFEST, Luda Gallery, St Petersburg, RU
10 new bad work, Borey Gallery, St Petersburg, RU

2016

6th international public art festival Art Prospect, St Petersburg, RU
New Art from St. Petersburg, Pärnu City Gallery, Pärnu, ES
New Art from St Petersburg, Tartu Art House, Tartu, ES

2015

Russia. Realism. XXI Century, The State Russian Museum, St Petersburg, RU
The practice of contact, XI Krasnoyarsk Museum Biennale, Krasnoyarsk, RU
Signs of the Time, or In Search of Identity, Special Projects of the 6th Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, KultProekt Gallery, Moscow, RU
No Time, Special Projects of the 6th Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, CCA Winzavod, Moscow, RU
The 3rd Ural Industrial biennial of contemporary art, Artist-in-Residence Program, Ekaterinburg, RU

2014

Herbarium Dobropillia, 'Tvoya ART Territoriya' Street Art Festival, Dobropillia, UK
The Other Capital, Museum of Moscow, Moscow, RU
Black envy, Parallel Events of the Manifesta 10, Borey Gallery, St Petersburg, RU
Kommunal Ghetto as a part of 'Apartment Art as Domestic Resistance' exhibition Public programs Manifesta 10, St Petersburg, RU
Signal, 'KB Signal', St Petersburg, RU

Public collections

The Perm State Art Gallery, Perm, RU
The State Russian Museum, St Petersburg, RU
Anatoly Zverev Museum, Moscow, RU
The Kaliningrad State Art Gallery, Kaliningrad, RU
Library of book graphics, St. Petersburg, RU
Krasnoyarsk Museum Center, Krasnoyarsk, RU
Sphere Contemporary Art Foundation, Moscow, RU
Sergey Kuryokhin Centre for Contemporary Art, St Petersburg, RU
Copelouzos Family Art Museum, Athens, GR
Street Art Museum St.Petersburg, RU
Open Museum — ARTPLAY, Moscow, RU