

Ronald Feldman Fine Arts

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KOMAR & MELAMID

BERGEN POINT BRASS FOUNDRY, BAYONNE

March 31 – April 29, 1989

In celebration of their recent American citizenship, Komar & Melamid, formerly of the Soviet Union, have undertaken a project to glorify Bayonne, New Jersey and its Bergen Point Brass Foundry. **BERGEN POINT BRASS FOUNDRY, BAYONNE** focuses on the foundry which dates back to 1890. During World War I, it played an instrumental role in supplying parts for the U.S. Navy. At one time, the foundry employed several hundred people, mostly Eastern Europeans, but presently the number of workers has dwindled to 35.

BERGEN POINT BRASS FOUNDRY, BAYONNE comprises numerous sketches, drawings and paintings depicting images of the foundry, its workers, and the local landscape. Bayonne sunsets can be said to resemble molten bronze, a color which is often incorporated into the works.

Also on view are sculptural arrangements made from wormwood and industrial garbage found in Bayonne. Wormwood, a weed used to make absinthe liqueur, thrives in Moscow as well as Bayonne. It is known as 'hemlock' in the Bible and translates as 'chernobyl' in Russian. The artists are producing and bottling *Komar & Melamid Absinthal Vodka* from genuine Bayonne wormwood.

BERGEN POINT BRASS FOUNDRY, BAYONNE, which recalls important ideas of the socially oriented American Realists of the mid-30's and projects from the Works Progress Administration, is part of an ongoing project titled **LABOR, BAYONNE, NEW JERSEY, USA**. Its is an effort involving the collective participation of the artists and their fellow citizens in Bayonne, New Jersey.

There will be a reception for Komar & Melamid and the foundry workers on Friday, March 31, from 5-7 p.m. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 10-6, Mondays by appointment. For further information, please contact Susan Yung at (212)226-3232.

Just published by Abbeville Press: Komar & Melamid by Carter Ratcliff, 224 pages, 250 illustrations, 114 in color, \$55. A hand-painted collector's version is also available in an edition of 50.