

# RONALD FELDMAN FINE ARTS INC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## KOMAR & MELAMID

### Death & Immortality

**September 11 – October 16, 1993**

Vitaly Komar & Alexander Melamid present two new installations, *Death & Immortality*.

The *Death* installation consists of a sequence of six paintings in a classical Style which depict the suicide of an anonymous American man in an ordinary motel in New Jersey – an American crypt.

*Immortality*, the second work, deals with the preservation of the ultimate Soviet icon, Lenin's Mausoleum. On view will be a model of the mausoleum reconceptualized by Komar & Melamid, with 70 statues of Lenin (courtesy of Grazyna and Gabriel Meretik, France) as well as related multi-panelled paintings and written materials about the history of the Lenin cult. The artists are concerned about the gradual destruction of the country's Socialist Realist monumental propaganda sculptures.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be an opening reception for the artists on Saturday, September 11 from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information, please contact Susan Yung at (212)226-3232.

#### RELATED NEWS

- The Immortality installation coincides with Monumental Propaganda, an exhibiton conceived and initiated by Komar & Melamid and organized by Independent Curators, Inc. (ICI) of New York. The exhibition consists of over 200 proposals by artists world-wide for preserving Soviet totalitarian monuments by transforming them. It is on view at the World Financial Center through October 3 and will run simultaneously at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Moscow. Both versions of the show will travel throughout the United States and Europe over the next two years.
- On April 22, in honor of Lenin's birthday, the artists were in Moscow to do performances in Red Square and at the Contemporary Art Center. According to Komar & Melamid's specifications, factory workers in Moscow created a full-sized, operational electronic light board which was mounted on the exterior of the Contemporary Art Center. The artists are awaiting official permission to install the sign board on Lenin's Mausoleum according to their proposal for the re-use of the monument.
- Ronald Feldman will moderate a symposium on Monumental Propaganda on September 29th from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the World Financial Center. Scheduled participants, in addition to Komar & Melamid, include Dore Ashton, Joseph Bakshtein, Art Spiegelman, and others. For more information about the symposium, please call the World Financial Center Arts & Events office at (212)945-2600.

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