

# Ronald Feldman Fine Arts

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**February 8, 1985**

KOMAR & MELAMID

## **NEW PAINTINGS**

**FEBRUARY 23 – MARCH 23**

**GALLERY HOURS: TUES-SAT 10-6**

Russian artists Komar & Melamid have departed from the public issues of the 'history paintings' of their last two shows at Ronald Feldman Fine Arts. In this exhibition, they explore personal and private stories in a series of small works.

The show consists of more than 20 works which together contain more than 200 panels. The panels, executed in a variety of media, including oil painting, collage, photography, relief, etc., touch on a wide range of topics from autobiographical reminiscences to intimate reflections on current events. The artists' status as displaced persons who have lived and worked in different cultures manifests itself in a lack of attachment to any single manner of painting. The polytychs combine diverse and contrasting images that refer to classicism, primitivism, socialist realism, expressionism, abstraction, etc. This underlies Komar & Melamid's concern with artistic freedom and their attempt not to be limited by the success of the imagery for which they have recently become recognized.

Komar & Melamid began their irreverent work under the banner of 'Sots-Art', a Soviet version of Pop Art, which they invented while living in Moscow in the early 1970's. Many of the first 'Sots-Art' works were smuggled out of Russia for two New York exhibitions at Ronald Feldman Fine Arts in 1976 and 1978. In 1978, the artists were allowed to emigrate to Israel, and one year later they resettled in New York.

Works by Komar & Melamid are in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, NY; the Metropolitan Museum, NY; the Guggenheim Museum, NY; the Israel Museum, Jerusalem and the Australian National Gallery, Canberra.

The public is invited to the opening Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. A reception for the artists will be held from 5 to 7 PM that evening. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 AM to 6 PM (Monday by appointment only.) Admission is free.

For further information concerning the exhibition contact Lynn Cassaniti; for publicity photographs contact Barbara Goldner at 212-226-3232.