

Ronald Feldman Fine Arts

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KOMAR & MELAMID “SOTS –ART”

OPENING SEPTEMBER 25 – OCTOBER 30

GALLERY HOURS: TUES-SAT 10-6

The recent work of the Russian conceptual artists Komar & Melamid plays off of the classical tradition of Socialist Realism of the late 40's and 50's. The specters of Stalin and Lenin haunt these paintings which further develop “SOTS-ART”, a Soviet version of Pop Art created by the artists while living in Moscow in early 70's. The current exhibition consists of thirteen paintings rendered in a classical style reminiscent of the 17th century.

Komar & Melamid's early work was smuggled out of Russia for two New York exhibitions at Ronald Feldman Fine Arts, in which the artists' ironic view of Soviet society received international press coverage. They were allowed to emigrate to Israel in 1977 where they built the Temple to the Third on Mount Zion. A year later Komar & Melamid resettled in New York where they have bought and sold souls, built a full-size guillotine, and painted classical portraits of dinosaurs and political leaders.

This exhibition will also include patriotic U.S. slogans in the form of American advertising; humorous portrayals of consumerism through Super Objects; gallows constructed for contemporary use; and Renaissance drawings of modern weapons.

Komar & Melamid are the first Russian artists to receive a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The public is invited to the opening Saturday, September 25th. A reception for the artists will be held from 5 to 7 PM on that evening. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 to 6 PM. Admission is free.