



Press release

ARSENY ZHILYAEV

M.I.R.: *Una matta, matta, matta corsa*

Opening 9th June from 6pm to 9pm

9 th June– 20th July 2015

Monday – Friday : 11am-1pm / 3pm-7pm

Saturday: 3pm-6pm

CANEPANERI gallery is pleased to announce the first solo show in Italy of Arseny Zhilyaev (b.1984, Voronezh, Russia), an artist whose work focuses on current political and social matters of contemporary Russia. Due to the fact that he is a political activist as well as a member of the Russian Socialist Movement, he has been involved in several debates on various social issues.

In his latest projects he reflects on the Museum as an institution, a tool which can tell of current social processes, developments and events. The artist's ultimate goal is to review the Soviet museology heritage. In the Museum not only is it possible to retrace history, but also to build an hypothetical future involving people in an artistic, historical and pedagogical reflection.

For the first exhibition of his latest series called "M.I.R" that took place in 2014 at Kadist Art Foundation in Paris, Zhilyaev created an anti-utopian museum of contemporary Russian history. Zhilyaev's approach is inspired by A. Fedorov-Davydov, a Soviet art historian who disregards the centrality of the museological object, focusing on the description of social processes instead.

The Russian word "Mir" means both "peace" and "world", thus pointing out the universality of the Museum as an institution as well as its main educational role at a social level. In this case too, the object has no importance; what is really important is the spectator. In this work the artist infers a parallel between the Russian political situation and the field of contemporary art, criticizing the ambitions of political art and the role of objects in its economy.

Thus, in this fictive museum, Vladimir Putin, the president of Russia, is taken as a model for artistic performances: the artist tries to criticize ironically the obsessive will of contemporary art to make social changes possible.



The continuation of project M.I.R. was in San Francisco at Kadist Art Foundation in summer 2014 and then in New York as part of Boris Groys curatorial project "The Specters of Communism" at e-flux.

The further development of this project will take place in Milan starting from the 9th of June with the new solo exhibition at Canepaneri gallery. The Italian version of imaginary museum of Russian history will represent a solo exhibition of Vladimir Putin with new serie of performanes concentrated on his relationship with the Italian leader Silvio Berlusconi. A comparison will be made between them and they will be performing from an artistic perspective just as they have been performing in the political field. Two characters united by such an exhibitionism and self-promotion that they have radically changed the way we think of international politics.

The title of the exhibition. *Una matta, matta, matta corsa* was taken from cult soviet-italian comedy film from the beginning of 1970s, time when the leader of Russia Vladimir Putin spent his young years in the same city of the movie characters.

His CV includes: bipersonal exhibition " Future Histories " as a side event at the Venice Biennale (2015) , the solo shows " MIR : Polite Guests from the Future " at Kadist Art Foundation in San Francisco (2014) , " MIR : New paths to the objects " at Kadist Art Foundation in Paris (2014) and " Museum of Proletarian Culture : the Industrialization of Bohemia " at the State Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow . Among the major group exhibitions are included " Rare Earth " at TBA 21 in Vienna , " Disobedience Archive (The Republic) " at the Castle of Rivoli (2013) , " History lesson " at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris (2010) and " Modernikon , Contemporary Art from Russia "at the Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo (2010) .

For 2015 he has also obtained the participation for the Biennale in Lyon and an artist talk at the Whitechapel Gallery in London.