



The start of 2011 has been exciting at Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art. We have been enthusiastic about the new works being presented and the heightened interest of the art community. It was also positive that despite the turbulent financial market, the art market has shown increasing stability. In these uncertain times, more and more collectors and investors see art as a safer long-term investment.

With a main exhibition space, an adjacent smaller gallery, a system of moving walls, bar station, surround sound system, and a grand piano, the space is designed to accommodate exclusive cultural and business events. From our seasonal exhibitions to the numerous private and corporate events, we have utilized the gallery as intended, a multi-function space.

## Who are we?

Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art Gallery houses the largest collection of paintings, sculptures, photographs, works on paper, and objects by contemporary artists from the former Soviet Union. Alexandre Gertsman, New York's premier dealer in contemporary Russian art, has owned and operated the NoHo gallery since 2009. For nearly 20 years, Mr. Gertsman, who is the Founder and President of the International Foundation of Russian and East-

ern European Art (INTART) as well as the American Friends of the Tretyakov Gallery Foundation, has organized more than 50 traveling museum exhibitions at major museums throughout the world, and a number of cultural events and fundraisers in New York City. Mr. Gertsman continues to act as a consultant to museums, corporations, auction houses, and private collectors.

## What do we do?

The gallery has a series of group and individual exhibitions throughout the year, showcasing both the most established Russian-born artists and introducing talented new artists. Thus far, our 2011 exhibitions have included: *Remembrance*, *Tatiana Nazarenko: Family Portrait*, *Modernism*, and *Russian Sensuality*. Our current exhibition, *Moscow, New York, Paris, Berlin* will run through the end of October.

Many of the works represented at our gallery are by artists included in the permanent collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, MoMA, and The Guggenheim Museum in New York, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C., the Tate Gallery in London, Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, Museum of Modern Art in Cologne, Canadian National Gallery, Australian National Gallery, The National



**Academician Tatiana Nazarenko, National Artist of the Russian Federation and Alexandre Gertsman among the personages of Nazarenko's "wooden gallery of Muscovites"**



**Alexandre Gertsman and Tatiana Nazarenko**



**Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art Gallery**

Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow, and The Hermitage and The Russian Museum, both in St. Petersburg, to name a few.

In addition, artists represented by AG Contemporary Art have received major Russian national art awards, including the National Prize of The Russian Federation and the Triumph Award, and nominations for the Kandinsky Prize. Other artists represented Russia at various Biennales and art presentations worldwide including the Venice Biennale, the Whitney Biennale in New York, the San Paolo Biennale in Brazil, and Moscow Biennale.

### **Our year-to-date**

The opening of *Tatiana Nazarenko: Family Portrait* was very well received. Academician Tatiana Nazarenko, who carries an honorary title of the National Artist of the Russian Federation, traveled from Moscow for the opening reception and was excited to speak with guests about her journey as an artist and the message behind *Family Portrait*. She has developed a unique collection of paintings and wooden cut-outs exclusively for our gallery. In an interview with Alexandre Gertsman, who published the catalogue of Nazarenko's exhibition, Tatiana Nazarenko speaks about how her work has changed with the social climate of the times. Those familiar with her work might see what Alexandre Gertsman describes as "softer and more romantic, a kind of lyrical, nostalgia-filled Nazarenko." The innovative *Family Portrait* project has also shown in Moscow, Kiev, and Odessa.

Reinaldo Herrera, Special Projects Editor at VANITY FAIR and a patron of the arts, visited the gallery to view the *Russian Sensuality* exhibit and fell in love with the

work of Rimma and Valeriy Gerlovin. Amir Korangy, Founder and CEO of THE REAL DEAL magazine, is often seen amongst the gallery's list of invited guests; as is two-time Emmy Award Winner and documentary filmmaker, Karmen Ross. Her work *Calling the Ghosts*, a film about wartime rape in Bosnia, was used to lobby the US Congress and United Nations for a just settlement to the Balkan wars. While Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art focuses on artists from the former Soviet block, such a powerful documentary resonates with the inner artist of all humanity.

The release of *Moscow Conceptualism in Context*, published by Prestel in collaboration with the Zimmerli Art Museum of Rutgers University, was celebrated at the Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art Gallery, honoring the book's General Editor, Dr. Alla Rosenfeld. Dr. Rosenfeld developed the book's concept and its themes in addition to overseeing all stages of its creation and publication. Her past work includes editor, co-editor and contributor to numerous publications as well as a sought after lecturer and art historian. Dr. Rosenfeld previously held the office of Vice President and Senior Specialist in the Russian Paintings Department at Sotheby's in New York. She also conducted, along with Benjamin Doller, the Vice-Chairman of Sotheby's, the charitable auction for the American Friends of the Tretyakov Gallery foundation presided over by Mr. Gertsman, at Jazz at Lincoln Center-Time Warner.

Amongst the guests in attendance at the reception were Suzanne Delehanty, Director of the Zimmerli Art Museum; Zakhar Kolovsky, General Director of the State Museum and Exhibition Centre in St. Petersburg,



**Amir Korangy, Founder and CEO of THE REAL DEAL magazine (Center)**



**Alexandre Gertsman; Reinaldo Herrera, Special Projects Editor of VANITY FAIR magazine**



**Alexandre Gertsman; Dr. Alla Rosenfeld, Ph.D., art historian and a former VP of Sotheby's; Zakhar Kolovsky, General Director of the State Museum and Exhibition Centre, St. Petersburg**



**Nick Ryan, Marketing Director of Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art**



**Karmen Ross, Emmy Award and Cable Ace Award winning film-maker; Alexandre Gertsman**



**Jim Dale, Tony, Obie, Drama Desk, Audie, Outer Circle Critics Awards Winner, Oscar Nominee; Frank Blocker, Drama Desk Award Nominee; Alexandre Gertsman**



**Vitaly Komar, artist; Anna Halberstadt, psychiatrist; Aleksandra Shatskikh, art historian**



**Alexandre Gertsman; Susan Tumarkin Goodman, Senior Curator, The Jewish Museum, New York**



**Vlada Reznikova, Art Director of NY Art Marathon; Alexandre Gertsman; Kate Bychkov, PR Director of NY Art Marathon**

Russia; Susan Tumarkin Goodman, Senior Curator of The Jewish Museum in New York; the highly-regarded Russian-American artists Grisha Bruskin, Vitaly Komar and Leonid Sokov, and Academician Natalya Nesterova who is based in Moscow.

Alexandre Gertsman hosted a private reception to introduce a new play by Drama Desk Award nominee Frank Blocker. Blocker, a widely-published playwright and actor, read excerpts from his play entitled "Good Jew." Tony Award Winner and Oscar Nominee, Jim Dale, who was also inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre, was present for the reading. He had high appreciation and support for Mr. Blocker's new play. Dale, a sought after audio book narrator, is the voice of the *Harry Potter* series, for which he won a Grammy (*Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*).

The 2011 NY Art Marathon show was held at Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art in mid-July. Headed by Vlada Reznikova,



**David Gibson, curator and art critic; Vlada Reznikova; Carrie Elston Tunick, artist**

Art Director of Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art, and journalist/columnist Kate Bychkov, NYAM sought to give voice to emerging international artists through an international online competition. Its curator David Gibson, a freelance New York art writer and critic, lead the panel of judges which included artist Vitaly Komar, art critic Jill Corner, and Alexandre Gertsman. 10 finalists were given the opportunity to participate in a group show, and the winner, Carrie Elston Tunick, took home a \$3000 cash prize for her installation, *Float*.

Visitors to the NYAM reception were



**Maxim Anikushin, pianist**



**Eugene Shkolnikov, Field Director / Financial Advisor, Northwestern Mutual; Edward Mermelstein, Founder of Mermelstein Development; Alexandre Gertsman**



**Janna Friedman, Founder of Baltimore Music School; Alexandre Gertsman; Aliza Weinstein of Sugar Hill Capital Partners; Semyon Friedman, President of Maryland Healthcare Clinics; Erica Tennenbaum; Alex Friedman of Sugar Hill Capital Partners; Laury Paul**

entertained by famed Russian pianist, Maxim Anikushin. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in 1999 and continues to perform for the masses. Lucky for our guests, we were included in the masses on this evening. Anikushin is no stranger to the art world as he is the grandson of 88-year-old Russian artist, Sonya Yankovskaya.

Celebrating continued fiscal success, Edward Mermelstein of Mermelstein Development, who is also a Managing Partner of Rheem, Bell & Mermelstein, and Eugene Shkolnikov of Northwestern Mutual, invited their clients to the Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art Gallery for a client appreciation cocktail event. Edward Mermelstein, owner of an exquisite collection of contemporary Russian art, his wife, Rose Caiola, founder of Manhattan Youth Ballet, a nonprofit, classical ballet school, and Mr. Shkolnikov, are all well-known patrons of the arts and humanitarian causes.

Gelsey Kirkland, one of the most celebrated American ballerinas ever born, and her

husband, a dancer Michael Chernov, Artistic Director of The Gelsey Kirkland Academy of Classical Ballet, were amongst the honored guests of Alexandre Gertsman.

Sugar Hill Capital Partners (SHCP), a real estate private equity firm investing in New York City, recently celebrated the close of \$33 million in new commitments by hosting an investor appreciation reception at Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art. Alex Friedman of SHCP, an avid collector of art,



**Alexandre Gertsman; Gelsey Kirkland, former prima-ballerina of NYC Ballet and ABT; Betsy Timberman; Michael Chernov, Artistic Director of The Gelsey Kirkland Academy of Classical Ballet**



**Visiting fashion magazine editors and designers from Moscow**



**Private dinner at the gallery**

together with his wife, Erica Tennenbaum, are regular guests at many of our gallery's events.

Very often, art can inspire a designer's theme for a new line. We were delighted to be included amongst the must see stops on a tour organized by F. Schumacher & Co. of New York City, for visiting Russian fashion and fabric designers. The diverse works of artists represented in the Alexandre Gertsman art collection draws from many experiences and many different points of view. Fabric designer Etery Lobzhanidze, who collaborates with F. Schumacher & Co., is the wife of our gallery's artist Vasily Kafanov, whose retrospective exhibition was on display last Fall.

Alexandre Gertsman also shows his appreciation for some of his clients and close friends by hosting private dinners in the heart of the gallery. While many of the dinner guests have visited numerous times for the opening of exhibitions or private events, sitting in the midst of works by some of Russia's most promising and celebrated artists takes wining and dining to another level. Mr. Gertsman takes his art seriously, but he treasures his relationships with clients and life-long friends.

The gallery is located at 652 Broadway, Floor 2 and by appointment only.

For further information please visit [www.agcontemporaryart.com](http://www.agcontemporaryart.com) or call 646-344-1325.

**Design: Nick Ryan**

**Photos: Kate Bychkov, Nick Ryan, Vlada Reznikova**

**Editorial: Ronald Odom, Jr.**

**We hope to see you soon!**



**ALEXANDRE GERTSMAN CONTEMPORARY ART**