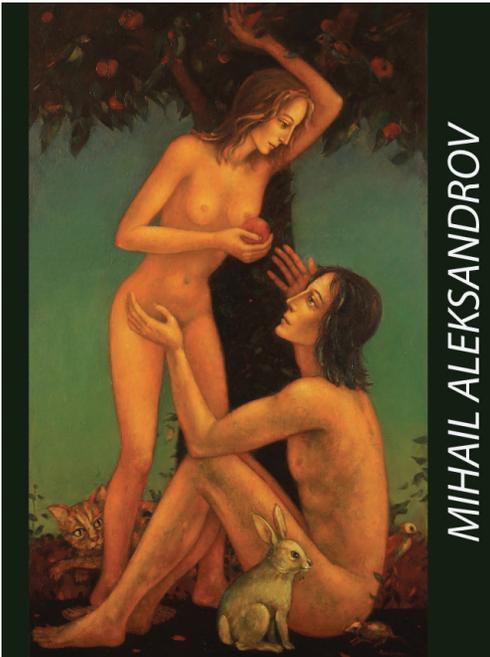




ALEXANDRE GERTSMAN CONTEMPORARY ART

## ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



Book about Mihail Aleksandrov

2012 was an exciting year at Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art Gallery. A series of major thematic, group, and solo exhibitions were staged at the gallery, and widespread attention by public and press media indicated its growing popularity and respect. The gallery was featured in articles by [Fine Art Magazine](#), [The Local in association with The New York Times](#), [New York Social Diary](#), [Fine Art Magazine TV](#) and the [Encyclopedia of Russian America](#), among others. It was additionally covered by *Voice of America TV*, *RTN*, and *RTVI*. Director Nina Zaretskaya also created a documentary film for *Moscow's Stream TV* about Alexandre Gertsman's house, which is of his own design, as well as Alexandre's private art collection.

The gallery continued showcasing the artworks by both established and up-and-coming artists, and introduced several new names to its portfolio. Among them are two artists based in Canada, young hyperrealist painter Dmitry Gretskey (also a Kandinsky Prize finalist) and sculptor Oleg Dergachov. Also included are Germany-based Oleg Neishtadt and

American surrealist painter Gulnara Tsiklauri.

In the continuously recovering art market, with both Sotheby's and Christie's reporting record sales at Russian art auctions, Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art received a great deal of interest from new and first-time collectors alike, including a growing number of American-born collectors who have begun acquiring works by contemporary Russian artists. As art continues to prove to be one of the best long-term investments, a younger surge of Wall Street and real estate professionals in their 30s and 40s are expressing great interest in the artists represented by our gallery. This increasing diversity of interest gives us an even more favorable outlook towards the future of the contemporary Russian art market. With our gallery beginning to represent new and young artists with great potential in their growing prices, we view the works showcased by the



Artist Mihail Aleksandrov



Alexandre Gertsman; Edwina Sandys, artist, in front of *CHRISTA*

gallery as promising investments for young collectors.

This year, we organized seven major group exhibitions and two solo exhibitions for artists represented by the gallery. A retrospective exhibition of widely popular and respected artist Mihail Aleksandrov that covered a thirty-year period in his artistic life became not only one of the most important shows of Aleksandrov’s career, but also a major event for the Russian-American cultural community in New York. The opening reception at Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art drew a crowd so great that the gallery had to organize a second reception. The multitude of guests came to view the exhibition, meet and greet Aleksandrov, and acquire a [book](#) that was published by the gallery and signed by the artist especially for his retrospective. The exhibition garnered noteworthy media presence, including coverage by Jamie Ellin Forbes, the publisher of [Fine Art/Sunstorm magazine](#), who wrote an eloquent and comprehensive article about



Christine Ebersole, Tony Award winner; Alexandre Gertsman; Victoria Elliot, Sotheby’s International Realty; Bill Moloney, artist

Aleksandrov’s art. Despite the fact that many new works appeared in the Aleksandrov retrospective, a number of paintings were shown that were created in the 1980s and 90s, representing Aleksandrov’s artistic vision as it was when he first came to America. Such works demonstrate a time when immigration played an important role for him both in his personal life and in his art.

The gallery also hosted an exhibition of Kiev artist Galyna Moskvitian’s *Code of Light* as part of the show’s world tour (Kiev -Tel-Aviv - London - New York). The exhibition was organized by the Ukrainian Arcane Art Private Foundation (AAPF), whose President, Igor Kondratyev, came from Kiev to attend the opening reception and press briefing with his wife Natasha. A *Code of Light* book had its American premiere at the reception.

Although it specializes in contemporary Russian art, the gallery continues to pay homage to American culture as a part of its mission to showcase positive Russian-American cultural relations.



David Margolick, Pulitzer Prize nominee; Alexandre Gertsman

The exhibition entitled *Art of Edwina Sandys: A Retrospective* chronicled four decades of artist Edwina Sandys’ work. Sandys is the granddaughter of Sir Winston Churchill and the daughter of former British Cabinet Minister, Duncan Sandys, and Diana Churchill. Even though Sandys decided not to follow in the political footsteps of her family, she inherited artistic skills from both her father and grandfather. The exhibition in-

cluded the revolutionary *Christa* (1975), the first representation of a female Christ on a cross, which created a noteworthy scandal when it was first exhibited in the 1980s in New York City. This exhibition coincided with the release of the book *Edwina Sandys Art* (Glitterati Incorporated), the first comprehensive volume of Sandys' work. Widely recognized today for large-scale metal and stone sculptures installed in parks, plazas and sculpture gardens around the world, her other works consist of paintings, drawings on paper, mixed media objects, and granite and marble pieces. Widely reviewed in the press, including *Bloomberg News*, *Huffington Post*, and *Businessweek*, the exhibition was extended twice to accommodate its immense popularity.



Oleg Sulkin, film critic; Irina Churkina, wife of His Excellency Vitaly Churkin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to UN; Alexandre Gertsman



Ronald Guttman, actor and producer; Ambassador Ido Aharoni, Consul General of Israel; Alexandre Gertsman

Edwina's husband, architect

Richard Kaplan, who is one of the major promoters of revitalization in lower Manhattan, was present at the book signing party, as was renowned Broadway and movie actress and singer Christine Ebersole, winner of the Tony Award, Drama Desk Award, Outer Critics Circle Award, and Drama League Award.

The publication of David Margolick's *Elizabeth and Hazel: Two Women of Little Rock* (Yale University Press), a study of the principal figures in the iconic photograph from the historical 1957 school desegregation event, was celebrated at the gallery. David Margolick is a longtime contributing editor at *Vanity Fair*, previously held a similar position at *Newsweek*, and worked as a legal affairs reporter for *The New York Times*. In his fifteen years at the Times, the paper nominated him for the Pulitzer Prize on four separate occasions. He remains a

frequent contributor to *The New York Times Book Review*.

Nicholas Wapshott's *Keynes Hayek: The Clash That Defined Modern Economics* (W.W. Norton), was also celebrated at Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art, with Nicholas signing the book for guests and admirers alike. A prominent British journalist and writer, he is a Reuters contributing columnist and an online content consultant to a number of media and private clients, including Oprah Winfrey's Oprah.com. He acted as editor of *The Times Saturday Edition* and is additionally the founding editor of *The Times Magazine*. Wapshott has written a number of biographies, including that of Margaret Thatcher. He is a regular guest on *CNN*, *MSNBC*, *Fox News*, *ABC*, and the *Charlie Rose Show*, and helped Tina Brown to launch *The Daily Beast*. Nicholas's wife, Louise Nicholson, who uses her time and talents as an arts journalist, philanthropist, author and lecturer concentrating on the culture of India, contributed her charm to the event's success.



Nicholas Wapshott, writer and journalist; Boris Gluzberg, VP of City National Bank; Natalya Gluzberg



Alexandre Gertsman; Professor Emeritus Patricia Herlihy, writer; Paul Rodzianko, Chairman of the Board, Hermitage Museum Foundation

Another exciting book reading was organized by the Young Friends of the Hermitage Museum Foundation (HMF) for *Patricia Herlihy's Vodka: A Global History*. Ms. Herlihy, Professor Emeritus of History at Brown University, is a specialist in Russian and Ukrainian history and is the author of *The Alcoholic Empire: Vodka and Politics in Late Imperial Russia* (Oxford University Press) and *Odessa: A History, 1794-1914* (Harvard University Press). Herlihy spoke to the crowd and gave attendees a preview of her work by reading excerpts from the new book. Paul Rodzianko, Chairman of the Board of the HMF, and his wife Chauncie, the HMF's Vice President, conducted a tasting of Russian and Ukrainian vodkas. The tasting was accompanied by a feast of both countries' national zakuskas, which became a highlight of the evening.

As a token of gratitude, City National Bank's Entertainment Division invited clients to the Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art Gallery for an exclusive appreciation cocktail reception to show its appreciation. The event was well received by over 80 art enthusiasts who were excited to once again visit the gallery. Also in attendance was Martha Henderson, executive vice president responsible for City National Bank's Entertainment Division, who together with her team has handled deals for such diverse projects as Broadway's *Book of Mormon*, Woody Allen's *Midnight in Paris*, TBS' "Are We There Yet?" and the explosively successful *Twilight*. Prominent businessmen, models, TV and musical producers, and art collectors all enjoyed the creativity of contemporary Russian artists whose works were showcased on the gallery's walls.



Frank Blocker, Drama Desk Award nominee

Private dinners for Alexandre Gertsman's friends and clients remain unique and diverse in their themes, but have nonetheless become a tradition at the gallery. At one such dinner, as guests were seated for dinner, Mr. Gertsman lightened the mood with entertainment from performer Frank Blocker, who sang a risqué number about self-love. A former Drama Desk nominee for Outstanding Solo performance, Blocker was on the boards last year in his critically-acclaimed edgy comedy about New York City apartment dwelling, *Stabilized Not Controlled*, from which he performed excerpts during the gallery's event. Blocker brought his amazing voice and comic chops, providing the perfect appetizer to an evening of art and conversation.

Mr. Gertsman's special guest and friend, collector Robert Cancro, Professor and Chairman Emeritus of Psychiatry at New York University Medical Center, and his wife Gloria, a poet who has written several poems about Russian art, enjoyed the performance. Dr. Cancro has been a longtime consultant to the U.S. Secret Service and is known for developing a U.S.-Russian



Alexandre Gertsman; Gloria Cancro, actress and poet; Robert Cancro, MD, Professor and Chairman Emeritus of Psychiatry at New York University Medical Center

Mr. Gertsman's special guest and friend, collector Robert Cancro, Professor and Chairman Emeritus of Psychiatry at New York University Medical Center, and his wife Gloria, a poet who has written several poems about Russian art, enjoyed the performance. Dr. Cancro has been a longtime consultant to the U.S. Secret Service and is known for developing a U.S.-Russian

research consortium on terrorism and posttraumatic stress disorder.

At another dinner at the gallery Kim Oler, winner of multiple Daytime Emmy Awards, the Richard Rogers Award and the BMI Jerry Harrington Award, entertained the guests with his trademark cabaret-style singing and piano playing with grace, ease and elegance. Guests, surrounding the piano, were completely immersed into the musical world of Mr. Oler as he performed his own compositions.

An exciting array of exhibitions and events is planned for this year, beginning with Academician Natalya Nesterova's solo exhibition entitled *Natalya Nesterova: Christianity? Judaism?*, which was reviewed in [Russia Beyond The Headlines](#), a supplement of *The New York Times*, with a video interview "[New York gallery hosts masterpieces of Russian primitivism](#)".

We look forward to seeing you all! The gallery is located at 652 Broadway, Floor 2, off Bleeker Street, and is open by appointment only.

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

Design: Kaleel Munroe

Photos: Vlada Reznikova, Nick Ryan, Yuriy Sandulov



Geoff Sargeant, Senior VP, CNB; Nanette Nelson, VP, CNB; Alexandre Gertsman; Martha Henderson, Executive VP, CNB; Boris Gluzberg, VP, CNB



Alexandre Gertsman; Tatiana Trofimova, collector; Marianna Trofimova, VP L'Oreal US



Kim Oler, Daytime Emmy Award and Richard Rogers Award winner