

# Alexander Kosolapov

## Biography



### #AlexanderKosolapov

Born in 1943, Moscow, Russia.

Lives and works in New York, USA.

At the height of the Cold War, Alexander Kosolapov developed an approach to reappropriation and diversion, combining symbols from Soviet political propaganda with American commercial advertising.

The idealization of the masses is at work in both of those domains – for its purchasing power in the West and its productive power in the East. The misappropriation of religious symbols and major figures from western art history also enters into his practice, forming the structure of ideological systems that question him and make him react.

Kosolapov was one of the first to perform that kind of operation, which has since been taken up by many other artists and even by advertising. Yet he is still the object of censorship in Russia, and though he had been able to continue working there, at least partly, he recognizes that it has recently become impossible. We can also remark that recent events in the West have targeted artistic license and criticism of the sacred.

While Kosolapov's practice visually resembles Pop Art, it does not have the same essence. Warhol wrote that democracy was the fruit of consumerism. Even so, caviar – as emblematic of Russia as Coca-Cola is of the USA – is a luxury product that has not modified the verticality of power but is its very image. That is the intention and subtlety of Alexander Kosolapov's work which, by apparently simple operations, crystallizes the complex dialectic of the second half of the 20th century.

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### Solo Exhibitions

- 2017 Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Moscow, RU  
2016 *Icons: West & East*, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
2014 *Freedom of Vodka*, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
2013 *Selected Works*, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
2011 *Alexander Kosolapov – SOTSART*, Leonard Hutton Galleries, New York, NY  
2007 *Mickey, Kamasutra et autres...*, Galerie Vallois Sculptures, Paris, FR  
2003 *Mickey-Lenin*, Gallery of One Work, Moscow, RU  
1997 Galerie Karenina, Vienna, AT  
1994 Galerie Vorsetzen, Hamburg, DE  
1993 *New Post-Communist Billboards oder Bilder aus dem Neuen Rußland*, Galerie Inge Baecker, Cologne, DE  
1991 Ruth Siegel Gallery, New York, NY  
1990 Berman Gallery, New York, NY  
1987 Galerie Anne Friebe, Cologne, DE  
1985 Semaphore Gallery, New York, NY  
1974 Central Exhibition Hall, Kuznetsky Most. Moscow, RU

### Group Exhibitions

- 2019/20 *Les non-conformistes. Histoire d'une collection russe*, MOCO, Montpellier, FR  
2018 *And I will take you to paradise*, Jugendstilsenteret & KUBE, NO  
"Unexchangeable", WIELS, Centre d'Art Contemporain, Brussels, BE  
2016 "Kollektisia!", Centre Pompidou, Paris, FR  
Summer Show, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
NADA, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, New York, NY  
2015 *Recycling Religion*, WhiteBox, New York, NY  
2013 Artgenève13, Art Fair, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
*Breaking The Ice: MOSCOW ART, 1960-80s*, SAATCHI Gallery, London, UK  
2012 Main Gallery. Russian Art of the New Millennium, New York, NY  
2011 *I Love ALDI*, Wilhelm Hack-Museum, Ludwigshafen, DE  
*The Present and Presence*, Moderna Galerija, Ljubljana, SI

- Museum of Parallel Narratives. In the framework of L'Internationale. MACBA, Barcelona, ES
- 2010 *Decadence Now! Visions of Excess*, Galerie Rodolfinum, Prague, CZ  
BLITZ, Galerie A.L.F.A., Paris, FR  
*Glasnost: Soviet Non-Conformist Art from the 1980s*, Haunch of Venison, London, UK  
*Best of*, Galerie Nathalie Obadia invites Artifact, BE
- 2009 *THROUGH THE PAST TO THE FUTURE*, Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art, New York, NY  
*1989. Ende der Geschichte oder Beginn der Zukunft?*, Kunsthalle, Vienna, AT  
*The Thaw and the Time After – Moscow Artists 1958 – 2008*, Part III, Perestroika (1986-1996), Galerie Sandman, Berlin, DE  
*That Obscure Object of Art*, Ca'Rezzoniko, Venice, IT
- 2008 *MEDIUM RELIGION*, ZKM, Karlsruhe, DE  
*That Obscure Object of Art*, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna, AT  
*Die Totale Aufklärung*, Fundacion Juan March, Madrid, ES  
*Russian Povera*, River Station Hall, Perm, RU  
The Andrei Sakharov Museum and Public Center, Moscow, RU  
*GLASNOST / PERESTROIKA*, DIEHL + GALLERY ONE, Moscow, RU  
*Die Totale Aufklärung*, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, DE  
*Alexander Kosolapov, Wang Ziwai. Post-communist pop*, Galerie Hussenot, Paris, FR  
*Obscurum per obscurius*, Tallinna Kunstihoone, Tallinn, EE  
*Moscow – New York / Thaw*, Chelsea Art Museum, New York, NY
- 2007 *Sots Art. Art politique en Russie de 1972 à aujourd'hui*, La Maison Rouge, Paris, FR  
*Forbidden Art – 2006*, The Andrei Sakharov Museum and Public Center, Moscow, RU  
*Sots Art: Political Art in Russia*, The State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow, RU  
*THAW*, Marble Palace, The State Russian Museum, Saint Petersburg, RU
- 2006 *Masters of Humor & Satire*, Sloane Gallery of Art, Denver, CO  
*Unlearn*, Organized by Plug In ICA, Winnipeg, CA  
*ESSENCE OF LIFE ART. Graphic Art of Conceptual Artists of Russia and Eastern Europe (from artists' studios)*, Ludwig Museum in the Russian Museum, Marble Palace, Saint Petersburg, RU  
*Artists Against The State*, Ronald Feldman Fine Arts, New York, NY  
*Branding*, Centre Pasqu'Art, Kunsthhaus Biel/Bienne, CH  
*Revolution*, Transit Art Space, Stavanger, NO
- 2005 *RUSSIA 2. WHITE BOX*, New York, NY  
*Essence of Life – Essence of Art*, The State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow, RU  
*RUSSIA!* Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY  
*Moscow Grafika: Artist's Prints 1961 – 2005*, Selections from the Kolodzei Collection of *Russian and Eastern European Art*. International Print Center, New York, NY  
*Essence of Art – Essence of Art*. Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest, HU  
*ART MOSCOW*, The Central House of Artists, Moscow, RU  
*WARSZAWA – MOSKWA. 1990-2000*, The State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow, RU  
*See-Food*, Sandmann, Berlin, DE

- 2004 *RUSSIA 2*, The Central House of Artists, Moscow, RU  
*7 SINS – Ljubljana-Moscow*, Moderna Galerija Ljubljana, Ljubljana, SI  
*Warszawa-Moskwa / Moskwa-Warszawa 1900-2000*, Zacheta State Gallery of Art, Warszawa, PL  
*Printed Light – photographic vision and the modern print*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, AU
- 2003 *Berlin-Moscow / Moscow-Berlin. 1950-2000*, The State Museum of History, Moscow, RU  
*SZENE MOCKBA (1977-1991)*, Galerie Eva Poll, Berlin, DE  
*Berlin-Moscow / Moscow-Berlin. 1950-2000*, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, DE  
*Ortstermin Moskau 1970 und die Zeit danach*, Sandmann, Berlin, DE  
*Caution, Religion!* The Andrei Sakharov Museum and Public Center, Moscow, DE
- 2002 *Gefährliche Spiele*, Sandmann, Berlin, DE
- 2000 *New Collection*, Kupferstift Kabinet, Berlin, DE  
*+ artist collection*, Museum of Modern Art, Ljubljana, Slovenia, SI  
*Kosolapov, paintings*, Museum of Modern Art, The Duke University, Durham, NC
- 1999 *Kunst im untergrund*, Albertina Museum, Vienna, AT  
*Drama Lenin-Stalin Tragodie*, GALERIE HOHENTAL UND BERGEN, Berlin, DE
- 1998 *Russlands Zweite Avantgarde*, Museum Moderner Kunst, Stiftung Worlen, Passau, DE  
*KUNST mit durch über SCHRIFT*, aus Sammlung Kubler, Attersee, AT  
*Pop-art, Sotz-art*, Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN
- 1997 Cetinjski Bijenale, Montenegro, Jugoslavia
- 1996 *HERE AND THERE, THEN AND NOW: CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS FROM THE FORMER SOVIET UNION*, National Jewish Museum, Washington D.C.
- 1995 *Kunst im Verborgenen*, Wilhelm-Hack-Museum, Ludwigshafen am Rhein; Documenta-Halle, Kassel, DE  
*Russian Jewish Artist in a Century of Change*, The Jewish Museum, New York, NY  
*Prospekts*, The Chase Manhattan bank, Soho Branch, New York, NY  
*Temporarily Possessed: The Semi-Permanent Collection*, The New Museum, New York, NY
- 1994 *Le Saut Dans Le Vide*, The Central Artist House, Moscow, RU  
*Before “neo” and after “post”*, Lehman College, New York, NY  
*El Magico Mundo de Mickey Mouse*, Madrid, Cuartel conde Duque, Barcelona, Palau Sant Jordi, ES  
Cetinjski Bijenale, Montenegro, Jugoslavia  
ART COLOGNE 1994, Osteuropäische Avantgarde, Galerie Inge Baecker, Cologne, DE
- 1993 *The 3rd Minos Beach Art Symposium “Art in Politics”*, Crete, GR  
*Eastern European artfear*, Galerie Vorsetzen, Hamburg, DE  
*AMERIKANISCHE UND EUROPÄISCHE POPART*, II Teil, Galerie Inge Baecker, Cologne, DE
- 1992 *Sotz Art*, Lenin Museum, Moscow, RU  
*Ex USSR*, Groninger Museum, Groningen, DE
- 1991 *From Thaw to Perestroika*, Setagaya Art Museum, Tokyo, JP  
*Kunst, Europa: Sowjetunion, Ilya Kabakov, Alexander Kosolapov, Igor Makarevich*, Kunstverein

- Hannover, Hannover, DE  
*Transpositions*, Art Museum University of South Florida, Tampa, FL  
*The Three Russian Artists, Anatoli Belkin, Ivan Chuikov, Alexander Kosolapov*, Eva Poll Gallery, Berlin, DE
- 1990 Sezon Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, JP  
*Art=Money?* The Gallery, New York, NY  
*Art and Publicity*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, FR  
*The Objects*, Stadelijk Museum, Amsterdam, NL  
*Schizo-China*, Avangard Club, Moscow, RU  
*Another Art Moscow 1965-76*, The State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow, RU
- 1989 *Transit: Russian Artists Between the East and West*, Nakhamkin Fine Arts; New York, NY  
City: Fine Arts Museum of Long Island; Central Exhibition Hall, Moscow; The State Russian Museum, Leningrad, RU  
*D&D*, Kunstverein, Hamburg, DE  
*WIRKLICHKEIT ALS KONZEPT II*, Galerie Inge Baecker, Cologne, DE  
*ART 20'89 BASEL/SCHWEIZ*, Galerie Inge Baecker, Cologne, DE  
*FORUM HAMBURG DIE KUNSTMESSE THE ART FAIR WOLF VOSTELL*, Galerie Inge Becker, Cologne, DE  
ART COLOGNE, Galerie Inge Baecker, Cologne, DE  
*Reagan; American Icon*, Center Gallery of Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA; Humphrey Fine Art, New York; Reading Public Museum and Art Gallery, Reading, PA
- 1988 *Hommage-Demontage*, Neue Galerie-Ludwig Collection, Aachen, travelled to Wilhelm-Hack-Museum, DE  
*Ludwigshafen am Rhein*, Städtisches Museum, Gelsenkirchen, DE  
Provinciaalmuseum Hasselt, BE  
Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna, AT

## Collections

Centre Pompidou, Paris, FR  
Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, NY  
The Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY  
The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY  
New York Public Library, New York, NY  
Kupferstift Kabinet, Berlin, DE  
Albertina, Vienna, AT  
Chase Manhattan Bank, New York, NY  
National Jewish Museum, B'nay B'rith Klauthznik, Washington D.C.  
The State Russian Museum, Saint Petersburg, RU  
The State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow, RU  
Museum of Art, The Duke University, NC  
Wilhelm-Hack-Museum, Ludwigshafen, DE  
The State-Zarizin Museum, Moscow, RU

Zimmerly Art Museum, Rutgers, NJ  
Art Museum University of South Florida, Tampa, FL  
Moderna Galerija Ljubljana, SI  
Museum Moderner Kunst, Stiftung Worlen, Passau, DE