



Contemporary Eastern European Art... Finally

by Jeffrey Andreoni

Distance and Sensibility

Group Exhibition
Calvert 22
22 Calvert Avenue, , London E2 7JP,
United Kingdom
April 9, 2010 - June 13, 2010



I have often seen shows dedicated to Eastern European art that tend to focus too much on the artists' origins and not enough on the artists themselves or their feelings and sensibilities.

It has taken Calvert 22, founded by Nonna Materkova and directed by David Thorp, to host an exhibition that is capable of showing what contemporary Eastern European art is capable of (which is far more than red stars and runway models donning Stalinesque coats).

One of the artists, Lily Markiewicz, has created a triptych entitled *Tarkovsky's Mirror*. This piece explores the obfuscation of memory which can occur over time. In Tarkovsky's film, the story gets quite confusing as even the narrator can, after time, no longer tell the difference between reality and fiction, thus creating a surreal "mirror" into the past. Many aspects of Eastern European history now seem surreal to anyone comparing it to the west, and Markiewicz's work confronts this dream-reality.

Of particular interest is Margarita Gluzberg's performance and sound installation, *Captive Bird Society*, which drew quite a crowd during its debut. It consists of several old fashioned record players placed upon pedestals of varying heights in one end of the gallery. Each record player has a different recorded bird playing on it. Gluzberg shuttles between the various players looking somewhat like a scientist as she changes records and resets needles. One can't help but sit down and watch this captivating performance for a few minutes, as did many of the spectators present.

These original works are only on display for a short time so I suggest you pop in to Calvert 22 for a taste of cutting edge contemporary art which happens to be produced be persons hailing from Eastern Europe. Other artists include Ergin Çavuşoğlu, Pavel Büchler, and Marysia Lewandowska.

-- Jeffrey Andreoni

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Distance and Sensibility, Calvert22, 2010. Photo: Stephen White

Posted by Jeffrey Andreoni on 6/6/10

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