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### **Leonid Tishkov**

#### **Derelict Utopies: Dabloids and Lodomir**

November 12, 2011 – January 7, 2012

Opening: November 11, 2011, 18-21h

Jiri Svestka Berlin is proud to present a solo show of Moscow artist Leonid Tishkov which is the first gallery exhibition in Germany. The show encompasses four groups and over 20 years of works of the former medic Tishkov.

Until today, Leonid Tishkov participated in exhibitions in the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt (2010), MoMA New York (2010), Martin-Gropius Bau Berlin (2003), Center for Contemporary Art Fargfabriken in Stockholm (1998) and the Mary and Leigh Block Museum, Evanston, USA (1995). The MoMA New York included works by Tishkov as first cartoon-art in its collection.

Leonid Tishkov's social and artistic project DABLOIDS took its origin right after the fall of the Sowjet Union. Created in the 1990s, at a time when Russia was on the threshold to a new society, the project had to stay an unrealised utopia.

Now the Dabloids have come to Berlin: Comics of *Propaganda-Dablus* and the installation *Factory of Dabloids* which took off as an action in 2009 in the Kamvolnyj Kombinat in Jekaterinenburg, Ural (a former fabric factory). During this one-week performance, Tishkov paid the dismissed factory workers to produce dabloids.

The so called dabloids are beings of our consciousness. Their form reminds of a little head on a foot in red – the colour of life. Dabloids can be understood as symbols for the burden of our personal experiences, views and prejudices which are part of all human beings. Some of our dabloids are to be found worldwide, some are just local. They are representative of all symbols and opinions referring to homeland, nationality or religion.

Changing from human to human, from country to country and continent to continent, dabloids are an expression of language, history and social identity. They are an ultimate symbol and have the power to penetrate our consciousness. This is why it is the most important task to banish them from our heads.

LADOMIR is a project of the year 2006, devoted to an important futurologist and poet of the 20th century, Velimir Chlebnikov, as well as other vanguards: Artist Kasimir Malevitch, scientists Ziolkovsky and Tchishevsky and finally the cosmologist Nikolai Federov. In the year 1921 Chlebnikov wrote the utopic poem *Ladomir* about a world of perfect harmony bringing together people of different upbringings, religions and longings. United for a better future they build a new shiny world. At the same time, the inhabitants of Ladomir are prototypes for the chairmen of the "Council of Earth". Leonid Tishkov kneaded these people – they consist of *Chlebnikov-mass* (Chleb means bread in Russian). In the centre of the installation stands the town "Sunnystan". Consisting of Malevitch's "Architectones", Tatlin's towers and Popov's aeriels, the town is surmounted by the golden nest house, planes and "flying Tatlins". It is a fragile, poetic world which stayed a futuristic dream after the Russian Revolution. Today, macaroni is seen just as food and not as the shining rays of the future. But even if this world seems derelict and abandoned, its volatileness may remind us of a possibility of another, ideal world.

The third utopia relates to a project from the year 2003. From far the light of the PRIVATE MOON radiate into the winter sky and tell of a moon that fell from heaven. A visual poem about loneliness as well as being a response to Chesterton who claimed that a personal religion is impossible – as is a personal sun or a personal moon.

The exhibition finishes in a long corridor with embrasures. This is where we meet the last derelict utopia: The CRYSTALL STOMACH OF THE ANGEL. It is at the same time the most personal utopia of the artist. Told in the form of videos and drawings, this utopia might be even more touching than the unrealised dreams of whole nations.

## LEONID TISHKOV

born in 1953  
lives and works in Moscow, Russia

### Education

1979 graduated from the 1st Medical Institute by Sechenov  
since 1982 member of the Union of Artists  
since 1986 member of the Union of Journalists

### Selected solo exhibitions

- 2011 *Leonid Tiskov - Derelict Utopies: Dabloids and Ladamir*, Jiri Svestka Berlin, Berlin  
*The Arctic Diary*, Krokin Gallery, Moscow  
*Whitesnow Gallery*, Auckland, New Zealand  
*Leonid Tishkov*, Nina Lumer Gallery, Milan
- 2010 *In Search of the Miraculous (selected works, 1980-2010)*, Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Moscow
- 2009 *Light is All Around*, Krokin Gallery, Moscow
- 2008 *House of Artist*, Krokin Gallery, Moscow  
*Deep Sea Divers*, Center for Contemporary Culture, Ekaterinburg University
- 2007 *Look Homeward*, Center for Contemporary Art Uyazdovsky Castle, Warsaw  
*Homework*, Krokin Gallery, Moscow  
*Solveig*, Vietnam Cultural and Art Center, Hanoi  
*Divers from Heaven*, Central House of Artists, Moscow
- 2006 *Ladamir: utopian objects*, Krokin Gallery, Moscow  
*Private Moo*, Novosibirsk art museum, Russia  
*Private Moon*, Ekaterinburg region library, Russia  
*Automatic letters*, Pinakoteka magazine, Moscow
- 2005 *Creatures*, State gallery of Izhevsk, Russia  
*Paintings 80th*, Krokin Gallery, Moscow  
*Creatures*, Yasnaya Poliana gallery, Tula, Russia
- 2004 *Vodolazy*, Krokin gallery, Moscow  
*Apokryfos*, National Contemporary Center for Art, Moscow
- 2003 *Leonid Tishkov & Igor Macarevich: Masters of Russia Contemporary Mythology*, Gallery K, Washington, USA
- 2002 *Communal Pulp*, ArtMoscow Studio, Moscow  
Gallery of the MuHA club, Moscow
- 2001 *Vodolazes (Deep Sea Divers)*, District of Columbia Arts Center, Washington, USA  
*Farewell to the Christmas tree*, TV-gallery, Moscow  
*Creatures of the Soft World*, Russian State Museum of Applied Art, Moscow  
ZhZL, Gallery of the MuHA club, Moscow  
*Tishkov Festival*, Cultural Center DOM, Moscow, Russia
- 2000 *Dabloids & another creatures*, Nonmuseum, St. Peterburg, Russia
- 1999 *Crystal Stomach of the Angel*, Gallery Dziga, Lviv, Ukraine  
*Creatures*, Contemporary Art Center Nizhniy Novgorod, Russia  
*Creatures*, Yaroslavl' Art Museum, Russia

- 1998 *Dabloid Teater*, Fargfabriken, Center for Contemporary Art, Stockholm, Sweden
- 1997 *Prothodabloids*, ArtMedia Center, TV-gallery, Moscow
- 1996 *Creatures*, Center for Contemporary Art, Chelyabinsk, Russia  
*Creatures*, State Art Gallery, Novosibirsk, Russia  
*Anatomia of Russia*, Spider & Mouse Gallery, Moscow
- 1995 *Creatures*, Museum of Art, Ekaterinburg, Russia  
*Beast (TVar')*, TVgallery, Moscow  
*Dabloids and Elephants*, Mary and Leigh Block Museum, Evanston Ill. USA

### Selected group exhibitions

- 2011 *Earth. Space. Gagarin.*, Krokin Gallery, Moscow  
*Whales of the Season 7*, Krokin Gallery, Moscow  
*Home Video*, Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Russia  
*Illusion*, Arsenal, NCCA, Nizhny Novgorod  
*9 Museum Biennale*, Krasnoyarsk, Russia  
*ArtSound*, RAM radiomobile museum, Roma, Italy  
*Blizzard*, Arsenal, NCCA, Nizhny Novgorod  
*First Industrial Biennale in the Urals*, Ekaterinburg  
*To See the Sound*, NCCA, Moscow  
*Easter at Chekhov's House*, PL gallery, Moscow
- 2010 *Playing the City II*, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt  
*VOIS CE QUE J'ENTENDS*, Center Des Arts Enghien-Les-Bains, France  
*Photographie de la nouvelle Russie*, La Maison Europeenne de la Photographie, Paris  
*History of Russian Video Art*, volume 3, MoMA, Moscow  
*Photobiennale - 10*, Moscow House of Photography  
*Summa Summarum*, National Center for Contemporary Art, Moscow  
*KoMMissia*, M'Ars Center for Contemporary Art, Moscow  
*Krasnoyarsk Museum Biennale*, Russia
- 2009 *3 Moscow Biennale*, Russia  
*Reflection: The World Through Art*, Dojima River Biennale 2009, Osaka  
*Thrill of the Heights*, OK center, Linz, Austria  
*I Was Russia*, Dunedin Art Museum, New Zealand  
*That Obscure Object of Art*, collection of Stella Art Foundation , Palacco Ca' Rezzonico Venice  
*Past Future Perfect*, Calvert22, London  
*Another Mythology*, NCCA, Moscow  
*Russian Dreams...*, Bass Museum of Art, Maiami  
*Walking a Fine Line*, Russian Video Art, Monkey Town, NY  
*SCOPE art fairs*, NY, CU Art Museum, University of Colorado at Boulder, USA  
*Alice in Wonderland*, PL Gallery, Moscow  
*History of Russian Video Art*, volume 2, MMoMA, Moscow  
*Russian Video Art*, Egon Schiele Art Centrum Cesky Krumlov  
*Tales of Brothers Yung*, Laboratory Gallery, Moscow
- 2008 *Russian Dreams*, Bass Museum of Art, Maiami  
*Stars of Russian Video Art*, North West Film Forum, Seattle  
*Singapore Biennale*, Singapore  
*The Fabric of Myth*, Compton Verney Gallery, GB,  
*Riga, A(rt)R(ussia)T(oday)-index*, Latvian National Museum of Art,  
*Teleport Teleport Fargfabriken*, Fargfabriken Norr, Ostersund, Norway,  
*100 Years of the Tungusky Meteorit*, Krasnoyarsk Museum Center, Russia  
*Fest of Private collection*, Ravenscourt Gallery, Moscow, Russia

- This not Food*, ERA Foundation, Moscow, Russia  
*IMPRINT*, Russian artist-publishers, Bibliotheca Wittockiana, Brussels, Belgium  
*Dots*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Rostov, Russia  
*REVERS DU REEL*, l'espace Michel Journiac, Sorbonne, Paris  
*Moscow News*, Art Center "Gallery", Izhevsk, Russia  
*Process & Alchemy*, Civilian Art Project, Washington DC, USA  
*Radikale Alltaglichkeit*, Culture Xchange Center, Wien, Austria
- 2007 *Photobiennale*, Branly Museum, Paris  
*Adventure of the Black Square*, State Russian Museum  
*Progressive Nostalgia*, Centro per l'arte contemporanea Luigi Pecci Prato, Italy  
*The Time of storytellers*, KIASMA Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki  
*Return to Memory*, KUMU Museum of Contemporary Art, Tallinn, Estonia,  
*Architecture Ad marginem*, State Russian Museum, St.petersburg  
*Avanto, videofest*, KIASMA Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki  
Krasnoyarsk Museum Biennale  
*Barocco*, Moscow Museum of Modern Art  
*Big Water Art Fest*, Art Gallery of Yugra, Hanty-Mansiysk, Russia  
*Words and Image*, NCCA, Moscow,  
*Tired Snow Videofest*, Rodina Cinema Center, St.Peterburg
- 2006 *Eye on Europe*, MoMA, Museum of Modern Art, NY  
Fotomuseum, Antwerpen, Contemporary Russian Photography  
*Russian Book art XX century*, Bibliotheca Wittocania, Brussel  
*Innovations*, State Center for Contemporary Art, Moscow  
*Visit of Star*, Photobiennale 10, Moscow  
ArteBA 2006, Black box/white cube video-space  
*Codes of culture*, Video Art from 7 Continents  
by The Project Room N.Y., Buenos Aires, Argentina  
*Moscow artist's message, Private moon*, Nanto cultural center, Japan
- 2005 Museum of modern art, Lubliana, Slovenia, *7 sins*  
Center for contemporary art Uyasvyadosky zamok, Warsaw,  
*Beyond of red horizon: Moscow-Warsaw*  
Berghouse, London, *Moscow Breakthrough*, Contemporary Russian Artists
- 2004 State Historical Museum, *Moscow-Berlin 1950-2000*, Moscow  
Manez, Moscow, *Direction: South-North*, KINO gallery, Moscow  
New Manez, Moscow, *IX Art Forum*  
Bishkek Art Museum, Kirkizstan, I. International contemporary art exhibition
- 2003 Martin Gropius Bau, *Moscow-Berlin 1950-2000*, Berlin  
New Manez, *Direction:West*, KINO gallery, Moscow  
Cheboksary Art Museum, Parapromysly  
Tretyakov Gallery, *Graphic art of XXth century*, Moscow  
ArtMoscow Studio, Moscow  
Slought Foundation, Philadelphia  
Detende: Russian Contemporary Art Video Format  
Queen's University, Belfast, *Invisible Cities*  
Artkiazma Fest, Moscow
- 2002 ArtMoscow Studio, Moscow  
New Manez, Moscow, VII Art Forum
- 2001 Contemporary Art Center of Virginia, The View from Here, VA, USA  
New Manez, Moscow, VI Art Forum  
New Manez, *Direction: East*, KINO gallery, Moscow
- 2000 Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow, *View from Here*,  
Petropavlavski krepost', SPb, *The Body Memory*

- Manez, Moscow, Serials  
IAKH, Leipzig, Books of elements
- 1999 Kuntshalle Faust, Hannover,  
Russian videoart  
Cinematexas, video festival  
Grafeion gallery, Praha,  
Contemporary Art Museum of Andy Warhol, Slovakiya  
Russian Samizdat & Artist's books  
Yaroslavl Art Museum, Russia  
Space of a Book  
Pushkin Art Museum, Moscow  
Artists books 70th-90th.
- 1998 State Berliner Library, Bochum Museum, Praprintium  
Fargfabriken, Center for Contemporary Art, Stockholm  
Furniture of Sven Lundh's Studio  
New Maneze, Moscow  
Sences Test Station, International Forum of Art  
Montpelier Art Center, USA  
Art Books of the 90th
- 1997 Albertina Museum  
Portfolios for Portfolio Kunst  
Corcoran Art Gallery, USA  
Russian Silkscreens from Moscow Studio  
Mimi Ferst Gallery, NY  
Russian Artists from Moscow Studio  
UFSA University Library, Antwerpen, Belgium  
Dablus & Do press  
Douglas F. Cooley Memorial Art Gallery, Reed College, USA  
SAMIZDAT East Europe
- 1996 Duke University Museum of Art  
Moscow Conceptual Aritsts  
Aberystwyth Art Centre, Boise, IDAHO, USA  
Glyn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea, GB  
The John Rylands University Library, Manchester, GB  
Contemporary Russian Artists` Books  
Gotland Konst Museum, Visby, Sweden  
Nordgrafia 96
- 1995 Stormont Rooms, Rye, GB  
Contemporary Russian Artists` Books  
British Museum's Library  
Avanguardie Russian Books  
SAGA 96, Alain Buyse Editeur, Paris  
Centre Belge de la Bande Dessine, Brussel  
Russian Comics Strip
- 1994 Spider & Mouse Gallery, Moscow  
For Memory of Kashirka  
Ekaterinburg Art Museum, Russia,  
Artists Books  
Anna Akhmatova Museum, Peterburg,  
Paper Theatre  
SAGA 95, Alain Buyse Editeur, Paris
- 1993 City Museum and Art Gallery, Bristol, GB  
Ferens Art Gallery, Hull, GB  
A Time of Transition

Art Center of Krasnoyarsk, Russia  
New Territory of Art  
Art center of Userch, France  
Livres d'artistes Russes et Sovietiques

- 1992 Pankow Gallery, Berlin  
International Exhibition of Visual Poetry  
Lyric-Cabinette, Munich,  
Russian Artist's Books
- 1991 Martigni Art Center, Switzerland,  
Furmanny's Artists  
Moscow Yung Palace, Agasphere
- 1990 Hauptmanschule, Kassel,  
Transfuture. International Visual Poetry  
City Museum of Gotha,  
Concrete. International Exhibition of Visual Poetry

Leonid Tishkov is represented by JIRI SVESTKA GALLERY and Krokin Gallery.  
[www.jirisvestka.com](http://www.jirisvestka.com)

Leonid Tishkov personal blog:  
<http://leonid-tishkov.blogspot.com>