

**PHILLIPS de PURY & COMPANY ANNOUNCES A SALE OF IMPORTANT
RUSSIAN ART FROM THE PROPERTY OF A FOUNDATION TO BE SOLD IN
LONDON ON 28 FEBRUARY 2008.**

**MAJOR WORKS BY MASTERS OF RUSSIAN CONTEMPORARY ART – ILYA
KABAKOV, ERIK BULATOV, SIMON FAIBISOVICH AND OLEG VASILIEV – TO BE
SOLD IN EVENING SALE AT 6 PM.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

London – January 23 – Phillips de Pury & Company is proud to announce a major sale of Russian contemporary artworks to be sold in London on 28 February 2008 at the company's newly created European headquarters in Victoria. The sale will take place at 6 pm.

Unquestionably one of the most important collections of Russian contemporary art, representing key works largely by 'unofficial artists' of the Soviet period is being offered on behalf of a private foundation. The proceeds of the sale will benefit children with AIDS.

Twenty years on from the historic sale of contemporary art held in Moscow in 1988, Simon de Pury will again conduct a sale featuring top works by the regions most important artists. The Moscow sale saw works by Russian contemporary artists sold and on public view for the first time in the artists's careers. The February 2008 sale at Phillips de Pury & Company will re-introduce many of the same artists that were sold only this time to a robust and truly global market for contemporary art.

Highlights of the sale include the top lot, an extraordinary work by the star of Russian Contemporary art, **Ilya Kabakov** *ZHUK (Beetle)*, 1982 is a richly painted canvas of a beetle – a splendid, iridescent insect on a green leaf. This large, visually seductive painting marks a turning point away from the early graphic style of the artist to a more colourful and illusionistic style.

The children's poem that overwrites the picture plane tells a story of a young hero who has found a shiny beetle for his insect collection. But the beetle "tears free, chatters and jumps from his hands" because "the collection is the last place where it wants to land." A metaphor for the artist working in a consumer society where the best works are bought and locked up in private collections, the beetle protests his capture.

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Zhuk (Beetle) by **Ilya Kabokov** will be offered with a pre-sale estimate of £1,200,000-1,800,000.

Considered a leader in the movements of Moscow Conceptualism and Sots Art, **Eric Bulatov** has transgressed the ideology of the Soviet system in order to unravel its illusion and false representation. Now one of the most celebrated contemporary artists, Phillips de Pury & Company will present a major early work by this artist *SLAVA-KPSS/Victory for the Communist Party*, 1975 which depicts a rich sky with soft clouds obscured by large red Soviet type. Barred from the promising possibilities this open sky suggests, the viewer is confronted with the harsh propaganda of Soviet control. This painting was recently exhibited in the show *Sots Art, Political Art in Russia from 1972 to Today* at La Maison Rouge in Paris. *Victory for the Communist Party* will be offered with a pre-sale estimate of £550,000-750,000.

Several works by **Simon Faibisovich** will be offered including *Family Portrait*, 1982 a diptych which portrays a small Russian family. Emotionally and physically isolated in totally compromised surroundings, this is hardly the celebratory portrait of family life however, the painting is a powerful, ironic work drawing upon a domestic scene to ultimately portray the futility of Soviet existence. Beautifully rendered in the artist's characteristic realist style, the painting will be offered with a pre-sale estimate of £100,000-150,000.

A number of works by **Oleg Vasiliev** will be offered including *Ogoniek*, 1984 which depicts Breshnev giving a speech in the Kremlin with a shock of white light obscuring the figure. Vasiliev's characteristic prism of light creating frames and visions of Russian scenes precede this image and the artist admits to using this technique in previous paintings to create a signature style that would not be contested when he belittled the leader. In a sense, the artist has noted, all the previous paintings were building up to this great statement. *Ogoniek* will be offered with a pre-sale estimate of £100,000-150,000.

Road Accident by **Ivan Chuikov**, a key member of the Moscow Conceptualism movement uses text, illustration and graphic design – so much the lexicon of the regime's propaganda efforts – to subvert the ideology and confront the reality of the political and artistic suppression. Three works by Ivan Chuikov will be offered including *Road Accident*, 1982 with a pre-sale estimate of £40,000-60,000.

Griffin painted in 1989 by **Natalia Nesterova**, well-known for the anthropomorphic figures and narrative painting is a seminal picture for the artist and will be offered with an estimate between £30,000-50,000. This work was painted during the artist's first visit to the U.S.

Other highlights include works by **Igor Makarevich, Yuri Dyshlenko, Pyotr Belenok, Sergey Volkov and Dimitry Plavinsky**.

Eduard Semenovich Gorokhovsky's *Stalin*, 1967 depicts in a graphic style almost akin to Pop art of the worst of the KGB bloodhounds with a cropped image of Stalin behind. *Stalin* will be offered with a pre-sale estimate of £40,000 – 60,000.

The auction will be held at 6 pm on 28 February, 2008

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An opening reception will be held on Saturday, 23 February and Sunday 24 February from 10-5 pm and the viewing will continue through to the sale from 10 am – 5 pm each day.

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Notes to Editors

With Phillips de Pury & Company's extraordinarily successful sale of Russian contemporary art in October, 2007 and a recent charity auction in Moscow, the company is poised to be the leading auction house in the contemporary Russian market. Record prices for works by Russian artists achieved at Phillips include **Erik Bulatov's** *Do Not Lean* which sold for 916,000 in June 2007; **Ilya Kabakov's** *Chambre du Luxe* which sold for 2,036,000 in June 2007 and **Semyon Faibisovich's** *Soldiers* which sold for 311,200 in October 2007. Phillips de Pury & Company holds the majority of top auction results for **Ivan Chuikov, Yuri Dyshlenko, Igor Makarevich, Natalia Nesterova, Sergey Volkopv and Vadim Zakharov.**

The catalogue for Important Artworks of Russian Contemporary Art – Property from a Foundation will be available two weeks prior to the sale and online at www.phillipsdeputy.com

The sale catalogues will include a dvd documentary U.S.S.Art made in 1988 after the first historic sale of Russian contemporary art held in Moscow by Simon de Pury and includes rare interviews with many of the artists featured in this sale.

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