



Tchoban Foundation
Museum für
Architekturzeichnung

Press release

Berlin, 12 September 2019

**In the Making:
Ilya & Emilia Kabakov. From Drawing to Installation**

**Tchoban Foundation. Museum for Architectural Drawing
Christinenstraße 18a, 10119 Berlin**

Exhibition opening: 16 October 2019, 7 pm

Press conference: 16 October 2019, 6 pm

Duration: 17 October 2019 – 23 February 2020

Opening hours: Mon – Fri 2 – 7 pm, Sat – Sun 1 – 5 pm

Tickets: 5 EUR, reductions: 3 EUR

The Museum for Architectural Drawing is pleased to announce an exhibition featuring the acclaimed conceptual artists Ilya and Emilia Kabakov. Since the late eighties the artist duo has created fantastical spaces that they call 'total' installations immersing the viewer in stories not only about their past in the USSR, where they both were born and raised, but also and most importantly about utopian dreams. The Kabakovs always create the concept for an installation together and Ilya transfers their ideas to paper.

Ilya's graphic skill can be traced back to his classical education from the Surikov Art Institute, and while working as children's book illustrator in Moscow long before the West paid any attention to him. In the 1960s, a small group of dissident artists – among whom



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Ilya was a central figure – created an unofficial art movement later called Moscow Conceptualism, addressing the dilemmas and failures of socialism.

In the eighties Kabakov created the installation *The Man Who Never Threw Anything Away* consisting of personal little objects. The use of common objects – things which help to create an atmosphere of memory – becomes a key instrument in his work and he began to incorporate them in the artists' walkable room installations. He first garnered public attention in the West when he showed his works in a large solo exhibition at the Kunsthalle Bern in 1985. Two years later he took a six months residency at Kunstverein Graz, Austria and in 1988 began working with Emilia, who at the time was working in New York as an art adviser and curator. Like Ilya, she comes from Dnepropetrovsk (today Dnipro) and knew him as a teenager. They married in 1992 and continued their collaboration.

The show *In the Making: Ilya & Emilia Kabakov. From Drawing to Installation* brings together a selection of sketches and colourful drawings for opera and their famous installations *The Toilet* realized at the IX Kassel Documenta in 1992, *The Palace of Projects* permanently installed at the Zeche Zollverein, and *The Red Pavilion*, which was exhibited at the 45th Venice Biennale in 1993. Along with these and other drawings for built projects as well as set designs, we see ideas for their unrealized installation *Vertical Opera* to be performed in the Guggenheim Museum, and for an angel that falls from the sky called *The Fallen Angel*, an installation that was proposed for New York's Whitney Museum. Most of the drawings on display do not reflect a thinking process that leads to their large-format installations, but rather an idea that exists from the very beginning in the minds of the artists and then through various sketches and drawings is realised.

For Kabakov's installation is largely connected to architecture and he often incorporates architectural elements in his work. What links them the most is space. The variety of drawings presents us with their beautiful body of work, and at the same time underlines the nexus between installation art and architecture.



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Along with the exhibition a light installation will be projected on the museums façade featuring the drawing *How to Meet an Angel*.

A catalogue accompanies the exhibition.

This exhibition was kindly supported by:



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Contact

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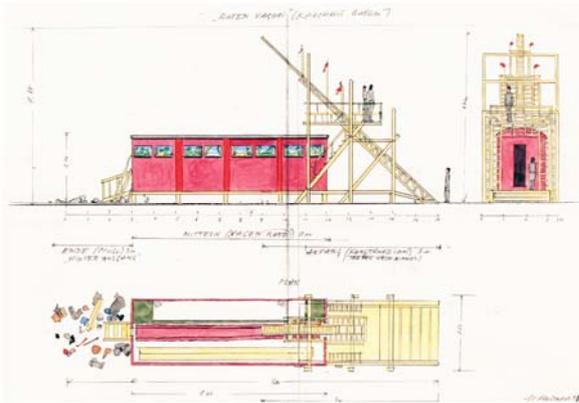
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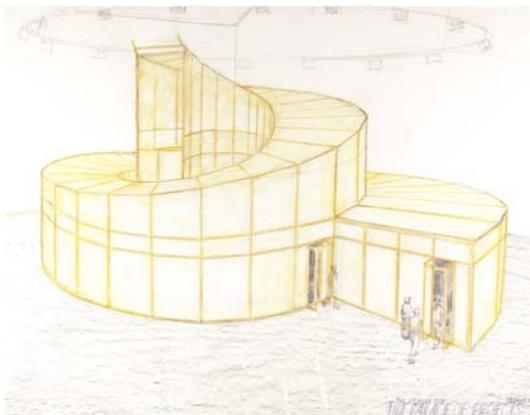


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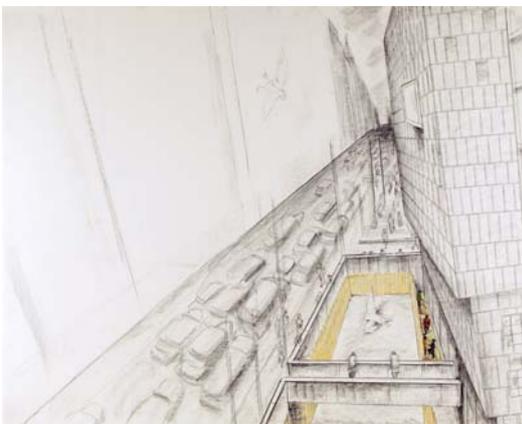
Images



The Red Wagon, 1991
Coloured pencil, watercolour, black ink
28 × 41 cm
© Ilya and Emilia Kabakov



Palace of Projects Drawing, 2003
Coloured pencil, watercolour, blue ink, black charcoal,
89 × 117 cm
© Ilya and Emilia Kabakov



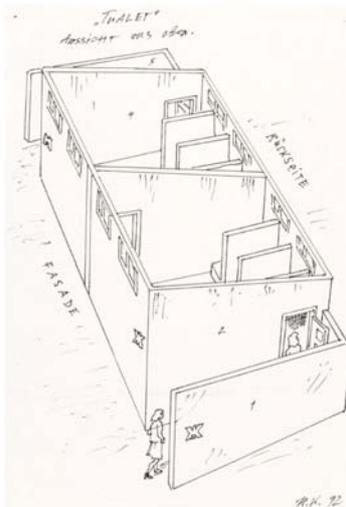
The Fallen Angel, 2001
Coloured pencil, black pencil, charcoal
81 × 102 cm
© Ilya and Emilia Kabakov



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The Red Pavilion, 1993
Coloured pencil,
45.5 × 30.5 cm
© Ilya and Emilia Kabakov



The Toilet, 1992
Black ink
28 × 19 cm
© Ilya and Emilia Kabakov



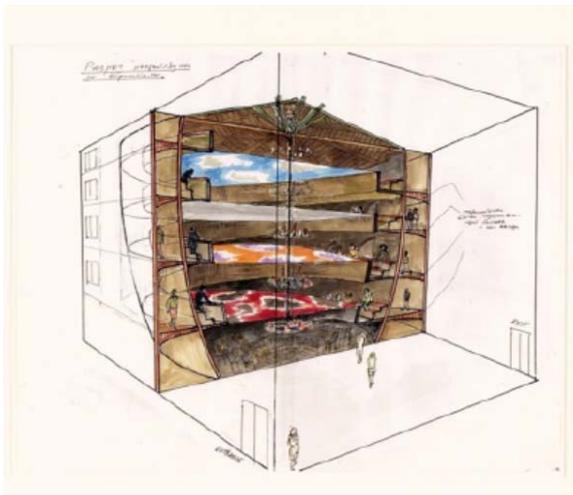
The Toilet, 1992
Watercolour, black ink
26.8 × 35.2 cm
© Ilya and Emilia Kabakov



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Life with an Idiot, 1992
Sketch for a set design
Black pencil, red pencil
28 × 43 cm
© Ilya and Emilia Kabakov



Vertical Opera (Guggenheim)
Section drawing
Watercolour, black ink, pencil
43 × 55 cm
© Ilya and Emilia Kabakov



The Centre of Cosmic Energy, 1999
Watercolour, black ink
27.5 × 41 cm
© Ilya and Emilia Kabakov



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