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March 21 to June 20, 2010

Ilya Kabakov – ORBIS PICTUS

The Children's Book Illustrator as a Social Character

Ilya Kabakov (New York) is one of the most prominent contemporary artists; in Zug, where he and Emilia Kabakov have carried out several projects, he is a known entity. Until his move away at the end of the 1980s, he was – in his official profession – one of the most successful children's book illustrators of the Soviet Union. His illustrations are a part of his oeuvre virtually unknown to this day. Now, for the first time in Europe, they are being presented exclusively at the Kunsthaus Zug. Kabakov is installing the exhibition himself with numerous books and some three hundred works on paper dating from between 1956 and 1989.

In the Soviet Union, children's literature enjoyed a much higher status – also for adults – than in the West. It was a genre in which distinguished authors and artists worked. To this day, Kabakov's conception of art still bears the very evident stamp of his working situation in the Soviet Union – a situation dictated and controlled from the outside – for his works seek a dialogue with a wide range of different beholders. The exhibition of the children's books can thus be understood as a "celebration" of imaginative draughtsmanship and as an aloof world of appearances behind which human desires are concealed. In the midst of the pictorial worlds defined by the artist, the areas of the paper left a blank white allow the imagination to wander where it will.

The CATALOGUE RAISONNE OF ILYA KABAKOV'S ARTIST BOOKS, designed by the artist himself and edited for the Kunsthaus Zug by Matthias Haldemann and his collaborators, will be published on the occasion of the exhibition by the Kerber Verlag of Bielefeld, Leipzig and Berlin.

Project Museum: Ilya and Emilia Kabakov - Kaaba

Ilya und Emilia Kabakov present their idea for a public collection archive for the new Kunsthaus Zug: a lively, mysterious and fascinating treasure chamber which knows no comparison.

Pictures

Exhibitions

Exhibition opening and book vernissage

Saturday, March 20, 5:15 pm

Speakers: Dr. Matthias Haldemann, director, and Emilia Kabakov

Art at Noon

Tuesday, March 23, 12 noon - 12:30 pm

with Matthias Haldemann

Tuesday, May 4, 12 noon - 12:30 pm

with Sandra Winiger, art educator

Tuesday, June 1, 12 noon - 12:30 pm

with Sandra Winiger: The Kabakovs' Collection Archive

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Tuesday, June 8, 12 noon - 12:30 pm

with Matthias Haldemann: The Kabakovs' Drinking Fountain.

Meeting place: Station Square (Bahnhofplatz), Zug

Guided tours

Sunday, April 18, 10:30 am - 12 noon

with Dr. Marco Obrist, associate curator (English)

Sunday, May 16, 10:30 am - 12 noon

with Matthias Haldemann

Sunday, June 20, 10:30 am - 12 noon

with Marco Obrist

Guided tours with readings from Kabakov's Russian children's books

Thursday, May 20, 6 – 7:30 pm Sunday, May 30, 10:30 am – 12 noon

Sandra Winiger, art educator, and Anna Baumeler, Russian teacher

International Museum Day

Sunday, May 16, 10:30 am - 12 noon

Guided tour with Matthias Haldemann

2 - 2:30 and 3 - 3:30 pm

Impulses for families with Sandra Winiger

Family workshop

Sonntag, 11. April, 13.00 - 15.00 Uhr

Sunday, April 11, 1 - 3 pm

For parents and children (6 years and older)

Ilya Kabakov's imaginative draughtsmanship is particularly suitable for turning a Sunday visit to the Kunsthaus into a family experience. We will discover the world of Kabakov's children's books playfully and allow ourselves to be inspired to invent our own stories and become actively creative ourselves. In collaboration with eff-zett Elternbildung.

Previous reservations requested

CHF 25.-/single parent with child/children

CHF 35.-/parents with child/children

Reading for children

Saturday, May 29, 2 - 3 pm

For children (8 years and older) and parents with Mikhail Shishkin, Russian author

In collaboration with ABRAXAS Central Swiss Children's and Youth Literature Festival Zug

Art and Appetite

Wednesday, April 14 and Friday, June 11

Russian midday cuisine accompanies the exhibition

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Admission fee

CHF 10.- / 8.- reduced

Private guided tours

Information: telephone +41 (0)41 725 33 44

Events for schools

Art education: telephone +41 (0)41 725 33 40

The exhibition is generously supported by

Tatneft Europe AG, Zug | UBS AG, Zug | STANLEY THOMAS JOHNSON STIFTUNG | Wasserwerke Zug AG | US Embassy, Bern

Next exhibition

July 4 to August 29, 2010 Sladjan Nedeljkovic – Discovery Art from Zug – The Collection

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