

Pavel Pepperstein

Song of Liberty

exhibition 26 apr - 25 jun

preview 23 apr 10 am- 8 pm



Pavel Pepperstein, *Song of Liberty* (detail)

Sprovieri is proud to present *Song of Liberty*, the third solo show at the gallery of Russian artist Pavel Pepperstein.

Song of Liberty, comprises a series of 21 watercolours illustrations of William Blake's namesake poem. The drawings illustrate images charged with a strong religious, satirical and political content. Mythological and historical figures, such as Albion and the Pope, are merged together under the umbrella of fairy tale and caricatural scenes. In Pepperstein's graphic, painterly works, ancient mythology encounters avant-garde forms, to which the artist adds his own handwritten description element.

"There is something particular about William Blake's poetry (magnificent, peerless, stunning, sectarian, flawed enough, and in a way even wretched). As far as I know, no one has ever attempted it (indeed, doing so would never have occurred to anyone) after he himself did it so magnificently. The author's genuine and perfect illustrations of his own poems completely (it would seem, forever !!!) ruled out the possibility of letting shitty illustrators approach this sacral text."

Both artists worked on the creation of their work during periods characterised by important world changes (revolutions, wars and the upheaval of the global status quo). Although referring to a timeless masterpiece of the past, Pavel's work is focused on the contemporaneity, leading the viewer to a modern-day analysis of the relations between nations, religions and cultures.

About the artist:

Born in Moscow in 1966, Pavel Pepperstein is one of the most influential artists of Russia. In 1985-1987 he studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague and in 1987 he co-founded the experimental group of artists Inspection Medical Hermeneutics, which, after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, developed a critical approach towards the influence of western culture on Russia.

Pepperstein had solo exhibitions at Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow (2019); Kunsthaus Zug (2017); Multimedia Art Museum, Moscow (2016); Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Saint-Étienne (2015); 5th Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art (2015) and Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein (2010). He participated in the Moscow Biennial (2017 and 2007); Garage Triennial of Russian Contemporary Art (2017); Manifesta, St. Petersburg (2014); the Venice Biennial (2009); and the Valencia Biennial (2003). His work has been exhibited in the group show Russia at the Guggenheim of Bilbao and New York (2005-2006).

Pepperstein's work is included in public collections, such as the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; the Kunsthaus Zug, Kunstmuseum Basel, Switzerland; the Moscow Museum of Contemporary Art; the Sammlung Rheingold Art Foundation, Düsseldorf; and the Deutsche Bank Collection, Berlin.