

VAN DER PLAS GALLERY

156 ORCHARD STREET NYC NY 10002 ☎ 212.227.8983



Press Release: Konstantin Bokov: Free America

Opening Reception: Thursday February 16th, 2017 6pm - 8pm

Hours: Wed-Sun, 12pm - 6pm

Mon-Tues: By Appointment

Konstantin Bokov has demonstrated an unusual and peculiar insight into the mixed-up, contradictory world we live in right now, in 2017, although many of the works in this exhibit were created a decade and more ago. Growing up in USSR-dominated Ukraine, and unable to show his art in that political climate, he sought the freedom associated with America and the New York art world, and immigrated here in the 1970s.

Adriaan Van Der Plas, founder of Van Der Plas Gallery, was once himself an outsider, having left his hometown of Vienna, Austria around the same time, to begin a new life in New York City. Without credentials or experience, but with a great love and appreciation for art, he quickly established himself with his “Art a la carte” pushcart in the South Street Seaport district.

The two became acquainted in 1993, when Bokov approached Adriaan at the Seaport. Recognizing the sincerity with which the work portrayed New York’s spirit and materiality, Adriaan became an avid collector of Bokov’s work.

Without respect for conventional concepts of what constitutes contemporary art, Bokov creates work on an entirely intuitive basis, free from the dictates of authorities of any sort. His highly inventive works often incorporate material discarded from our throw-away society, transformed so completely that we are slow to recognize what in another context we are most familiar with. In this way, Bokov calls into question our very perceptions of the world we live in, and offers us alternatives far more beguiling.

The Van Der Plas Gallery has been a conduit for contemporary outsider artists for over 40 years. The gallery strives to showcase art rising from the innermost human creative spirit. With the opening of the Van Der Plas Gallery on 156 Orchard Street, the gallery’s mission has been to bring contemporary outsiders like Bokov into the public eye.