

Ivan Chuikov
Used Signs

16/04/2015 – 16/05/2015

Preview: April 15, 7:00 PM

Regina Gallery is pleased to announce Ivan Chuikov's new project: Used Signs. Regina Gallery has a long history of collaboration with Ivan Chuikov, whose beginning dates to the "Theory of Reflection" exhibition in 1992. The artist's work has, for a long time now, possessed the imprimatur of museum quality and is regarded highly by specialists and collectors. His large retrospectives at the Tretyakov State Gallery (1998) and the Moscow Museum of Modern Art (2010) have acquainted the viewer with many years' worth of the artist's works.

The nine new works presented at the current exhibition represent nine parts of a single whole, which depicts easily recognizable signs. The artist rejects the use of canvas, instead selecting the Window as his work surface. It is precisely through his chosen form and the fragmented nature of the image that the artist achieves the effect of figures moving in space.

Working with ideological signs, Chuikov points to their semantic bankruptcy, their emptiness. The appropriation of one and the same sign by varying, sometimes mutually hostile organizations transforms it into an ideologically ambivalent substance. Owing to its capacity for endless interpretation, the sign divests itself of its symbolic meaning, ceases to signify anything at all, and becomes meaningless. By placing neutral signs alongside ideological ones, the artist once again underscores the vacuous nature of the latter.

Ivan Semenovich Chuikov was born in Moscow on May 22, 1935. He is a 1960 graduate of MGKhl (V. Surikov Moscow State Academy Art Institute). His first exhibition opened in 1957 during the seventh World Festival of Youth and Students in Moscow. Since 1967, he has been a member of the Artists' Union, and has participated in exhibitions of underground art since 1976. Ivan Chuikov's works are housed in important private and museum collections, including the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Zimmerli Art Museum in New Jersey, the Russian Museum in St. Petersburg, the Tretyakov State Gallery, the National Center for Contemporary Arts in Moscow, and the Moscow Museum of Modern Art.

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