



UNI A1, 2008, installation, mixed technique

Stas Shuripa Structures

Inauguration on Thursday 20 November 2008, at 18.30. The exhibition will be open until 17 January 2009.

Catalogue with critical essays by Viktor Misiano and Stas Shuripa.

Stas Shuripa's paper constructions go back to the 70s Moscovite conceptual tradition, in a sophisticated, minimalist and formalist way.

"Pure form is the zero degrees of meaning, the grammar that organises matter into situations, the point of departure for the production of meaning" Stas Shuripa.

When developing his forms in space, Shuripa always begins from a format – sheets of paper for his UNI A 1 installations; small plastic cards the size of a credit card in his plastic-coated structures; drink cans in his installation *"Sucking structures"*.

According to him, format is the manifestation of standardised, mass produced forms; the expression of information production systems, of standardised communication rules. Genres or rituals imposed by mass consumer society – base elements of today's reality.

"If format has become the regulation of our daily lives, and of many other areas of communication, then art must view format as an object of interest. This is the task of art: to make visible that which is otherwise invisible, by means of form". Stas Shuripa.

According to Shuripa, utopian energy today is englobed into the channels and formats of mass communication architecture, and transformed into "entertainment", corporative spirit and ideological manipulation; the interior has become exterior, special effect, an element of consumption.

"UNI A1" maintains the character of a sculpture in the form of folded sheets of paper, yet it is also an installation that shapes the environment.

"Sucking structures" is made up of 191 black tins – an incarnation of twentieth century functionalism, which reproduce the map of the world, and a structure made of straws; "poor" objects taken from everyday reality, forming an abstracts pictogram; an expression of the power of technology that makes this form of the world both possible and universally recognisable. The work is an imaginary model of the network of global exchanges: a metonymy of standardisation and mass production.

Stas Shuripa was born in 1971, in South Sakhalinsk (the easternmost island belonging to Russia). He lives and works in Moscow.

Selected exhibitions from 2005

- 2008 "The Returns of the Form", Moscow Art Fair, Moscow, Russia
- 2007 "Moscopolis", Espace Louis Vitton, Paris, France
- "Art Moscow Studios", Central House of Artists, Moscow, Russia
- "On Greekdom". Benaki Museum, Athens, Greece
- 2006 "Origin of Species", Museum of Art, Toyama – Museum of Modern Art, Hiroshima, Japan
- "Undercurrents '06", Museum of Arts, Goteborg, Sweden
- 2005 "Russian Pop – art" State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow, Russia