



The Obedient #1

ANASTASIA KHOROSHILOVA *The Obedient*

Opening on March 1st 2012, at 18.30

The exhibition will run until April 21st 2012

the artist will be present

Opening times:

Tuesday - Saturday, 15.00 - 19.00

Mornings by appointment

The Impronte Gallery, who has recently changed its name in Laura Bulian Gallery, is pleased to present an exhibition by Anastasia Khoroshilova, the Russian photo-artist's second solo show in Italy. Following her exhibition *Russkie*, hosted at our gallery in 2009, and her participation in the project *Stare Novosti*, 2011 at the 54th Venice Biennale, Anastasia Khoroshilova returns to our spaces with a photo exhibition entitled *The Obedient*. The exhibition includes the entire photo cycle *The Obedient*, 2008 and a selection from *Trees*, 2009.

Anastasia Khoroshilova's work should be viewed within the context of social anthropology; the artist has always focused on the daily and contemporary reality of individuals living in closed and isolated societies, uniqueness as part of a group. She opens a channel of communication whereby the observer can establish contact with the subjects of her photography. *"I'm interested in finding the point where global social space intersects with collective systems that are typical of isolated communities, where the absence of external stimuli contributes to the definition of stereotyped roles. Every external testimony unmasks the psychological schemes within the community's approved relations and reveals the details that differentiate each individual"* Anastasia Khoroshilova, 2008.

The subjects chosen for the cycle *The Obedient* are nuns living in a convent, portrayed in black and white photographs as they go about their daily lives. It is a document and investigation into the voluntary adoption of the rules of monastic life, an attempt at opening a dialogue with the viewer. *The Obedient* calls for dialogue without ostentation, the extent and depth of which will depend on the observer's broad-mindedness and ability to understand and appreciate the "obedience" of monastic life.

"The simplicity and unaffected quality of female monastic obedience and its specific harmony are the ground on which I have formulated the idea and concept of my cycle "The Obedient". Suddenly, it seemed to me that, the sisters' sincere diligence and solemn gentleness defined and unified them much more than their daily prayers and the duties of monastic orders. Each individual displayed something that was more "general and lofty"." Anastasia Khoroshilova, 2008.

On the other hand, a biological project lies behind the photo cycle *Trees*, 2009. The tree is a primary symbol of visual culture that stands out for its binary meanings: life and death, heaven and earth. These meanings do not dissolve over time, on the contrary, they are transformed regardless of temporal and cultural contexts. Anastasia asked students from the school for "People with Limited Physical Resources" (this is the official name in Russia) to interpret and physically impersonate the authentic roots of humanity on the streets of a major city (Moscow). The resulting scenarios were in perfect harmony and equilibrium with the surrounding context.

Anastasia Khoroshilova was born in Moscow in 1978. She lives and works in Berlin and Moscow.

2011

54th Venice Biennale, Starie Novosti/Old News, Biblioteca Zenobiana del Temanza – Centro Studi e Documentazione della Cultura Armena, Venice, Italy

Starie Novosti (Old News), Hilger Contemporary, Vienna;

2010

The history lesson, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France;

Storia Memoria Identità, Fotografia contemporanea dell' Est Europa, ex Ospedale S. Agostino, Modena, Italy

2009

Russkie, Impronte contemporary art (solo show);

Russkie, City Exhibition Hall, Republic of Karelia (solo show);

Wonder World. Expecting a restless future, 3rd Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, Special project, Moscow, Russia

2008

Russkie, Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Moscow, Russia ;

The Narrow Circle, Sala Santa Rita, Rome, Italy,

Presumed Innocence – Photographic Perspectives of Children, Decordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, Massachusetts, USA

The Power Of Water, State Russian Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia;

Einfach so..., Kunstraum Duesseldorf, Duesseldorf, Germany

2007

Islanders 2003-2006, Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci Prato, Italy;

From Russia With Love – contemporary Russian Photography and Video Art, Kunsthaus Meran, Meran, Italy;

Reality Crossings - 2 Fotofestival, Mannheim Ludwigshafen Heidelberg, Germany;

The Poetry Of Water In Russian Art, Palais Lumière, Evian, France

2006

Notes On The Way, State Russian Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia;

Islanders, Gallery Corkin Shopland, Toronto, Canada;

Bezhin Meadow, Sacharov-Centre Museum, Moscow, Russia;

Anastasia Khoroshilova 2002-2006, Gallery Bumpodo, Tokyo, Japan

2005

Bezhin Meadow, Goethe-Institut / Galerie Condé, Paris, France;

Bezhin Meadow, Ernst Hilger Gallery, Vienna, Austria;

No Comment, 1st Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, Moscow, Russia;