

BIG FOR 2010: CONTEMPORARY ART

Left Lion magazine

Left Lion asked four Nottingham Arty people to nominate an artist to keep our eyes on in 2010.



Yelena Popova, Martian Gardener, performance documentation from Carolyn Heinz Gallery, Hamburg

Yelena Popova has been nominated by Nottingham Contemporary's Assistant Curator Abi Spinks. Yelena will feature as part of Nottingham Contemporary's next exhibition 'Star City' opening 13th February 2010.

Yelena Popova is an exciting emerging artist, working across painting and performance, to create artworks which explore visions of the future and question utopian ideals. In her two-dimensional works, she experiments with found materials, including second-hand printed textiles, flyers and posters. The abstract compositions she creates play with surface texture, layering marker pen drawings with washes of paint, glitter and gloss.

Russian born Yelena currently divides her time between London and Nottingham, while she studies for an MA in Painting at the prestigious Royal College of Art and maintains a studio in the Oldknows factory building. Alongside several group exhibitions with her MA peers in London in spring 2010, Yelena's work can be seen at the Wallner Gallery, Lakeside Art Centre in September. In the meantime, look out for paintings from the 'Martian Gardener' series in the forthcoming Star City exhibition at Nottingham Contemporary, opening in mid-February.



Yelena Popova, Poster from Justo Flowers series (A2, black marker and gloss paint) and sculpture.

Questions for Yelena ...

What inspires/drives you?

I enjoy old objects and other artists work and usually get flashes of inspiration at the flea markets or at the art galleries, or just looking at pictures in the books, magazines or on the web. But the driving force is more important concept for me, than inspiration. Though I think about it not as a force, but rather as a muse: one might not have full control over one's driving forces, but one can negotiate and have a relationship with one's muses. So here are few muses of my pantheon: mrs boredom, comrade nostalgia, miss curiosity, lady failure also thrill of the new ideas, the notion of change itself, the progress, the time.

Tell us what you're doing in 2010?

I'm really looking forward to the Star City show at Nottingham Contemporary: my paintings from Martian Gardener series will take part in Goshka Macuga's Cabinet installation and the whole range of talks and events around this show promised to be very interesting.

I'll be writing my MA dissertation at the RCA, which might help to sum up different areas of my practice and formulate new ideas and the new work. I'm co-curating the group show of RCA students which explores boundaries of time. The show opens at Blyth Gallery at the Imperial College in April (27th) and in July it will travel to Moscow Young Artist Biennale. Our RCA Work in Progress show opens in April as well (23rd).

There are few projects with Nottingham based artists which are already lined up: the Cruiser group shows (at Deda and Oldknows Actual Wall space) with new zine publications and the performative tram cruise across the town. Also the collaborative show Boxing Yelena with Simon Raven at his Box Gallery - will be 'very boxy'.

Then in September just as the British Art Show hits the town I'll have my solo show at Wallner Gallery, Lakeside. So it's already lots to do and I hope to get involved in more exiting projects in 2010!

Source: leftlion.co.uk