

# PAGEANT : SOLOVEEV

HOUSE OF ART

---

For Immediate Release

**PAGEANT : SOLOVEEV**

and

**THE KALI YUGA ZOO**

proudly present

## NECROREALISM

The Photography and Films of Yevgeniy Yufit

**FEBRUARY 11 - APRIL 3 2005**

January 26, 2005 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - PAGEANT continues its maiden exhibition program Visionaries of the Iron Age with a presentation of the works of the Russian artist Yevgeniy Yufit. Mr. Yufit is a native of Saint Petersburg, Russia. A unique presence in the world of art cinema, in 1985 he founded Russia's first independent film studio. He became a leading figure in the Soviet alternative art movement as well as one of the principal practitioners of "parallel cinema." His works have been selected numerous times for major international film festivals in Europe and North America including Montreal, Locarno, Toronto, Moscow, Rotterdam, and Rimini. Yufit's paintings, films and photographs have been included in important exhibitions of contemporary Russian art at such venues as the MoMA (New York); the State Russian Museum (Saint Petersburg); Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam); Kunsthalle (Dusseldorf); Kunstverein (Hannover); and the Museum of Modern Art (Mexico City).

Yufit's early works are marked by an outlandish mixture of slapstick and the macabre and fueled by an overtly punk ethos. In addition to imaginatively capturing the madness and existential absurdities of late-Soviet life, his films evoke an alternately transparent and opaque world of the psyche as it traverses the frontier between life and death. The group of young artists who surrounded Yufit at this time dubbed their explorations "necrorealism," thus underscoring their interest in death's physical, psychological, aesthetic and sociopolitical contexts.

After garnering a significant amount of notoriety in counterculture circles, the necrorealists were taken under the tutelage of the great filmmaker Alexander Sokurov (The Russian Ark), at Lenfilm Studios. Yufit was the only artist to complete the rigorous cinematic training in Sokurov's workshop. The resulting cultivation of Yufit's innate visual sophistication is on view in his first feature-length film, Papa, Father Frost is Dead (1991). Awarded the Grand Prix at the Rimini Film Festival in Italy, the film established Yufit on the map of new European avant-garde cinema.

The development of the necro-aesthetic reached the height of refinement with The Wooden Room (1995). Thereafter, radical theories of human evolution become the central metaphor in Yufit's cinematic works. This new theme is the focus of Silver Heads (1998), Killed by Lightning (2002), and, most recently, Bipedalism (2005). Bipedalism will have its world premiere at the 2005 Rotterdam International Film Festival, where Yufit is a featured artist in this year's program. Pageant will host the North American premier of Bipedalism in late March (date TBA) in conjunction with a special Meet the Director evening.

The exhibition at Pageant will consist of a selection of photographs as well as regular screenings of his complete filmography through April 3rd. Opening ceremonies will occur Friday, February 11 from 6-10 pm. Other special events, including live musical accompaniment at select screenings, are being planned for this show, dates are TBA. For more information, or to arrange an advanced screening, please contact Daniel Dalseth at (215) 925-1535.

607 BAINBRIDGE STREET PHILADELPHIA PENNSYLVANIA 19147

TEL: +01 215 925 1535 FAX: +01 215 733 0309 EMAIL: SOLOVEEV@VERIZON.NET

DANIEL DALSETH PROPRIETOR