

**Stop Press: Artist Vitaly Komar available for interviews on
12, 14 and 15 September**



Yalta 1945
Installation of 31 panels, 1986-87
By Vitaly Komar and Alexander Melamid
16 September to 18 December 2016

Previously exhibited:
documenta 8, 12 June – 20 September 1987
Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York, 16 March – 4 June 1990



Yalta 1945, 1986-87, Vitaly Komar (b. 1943 Moscow) and Alexander Melamid (b. 1945 Moscow)

Ben Uri is honoured to launch the world tour of this seminal monumental installation of *Yalta 1945* from 1986-87 and not presented in public since its display at Brooklyn Museum of Art in New York in 1990.

Vitaly Komar and Alexander Melamid both graduated from the Stroganov Institute of Arts and Design in Moscow in 1967 when they first exhibited together at Moscow's Blue Bird Café. They are amongst the Soviet Union's most important non-conformist artists: founding 'Sots Art' which merged Socialist Realism, politicized Pop, and Conceptual art. In their multi-stylistic works of 'conceptual eclecticism', begun in 1972 and developed in *Yalta 1945*, they have become inventors of early post-modernism. In 1974 they were expelled from the youth section of the Soviet Artists Union. In the same year they participated in the

unofficial exhibition 'The Bulldozer Show' in the suburbs of Moscow to great controversy and their double self-portraits as Lenin and Stalin were ruined by order of the State. In 1976 they had their first exhibition at the Ronald Feldman Fine Arts in New York. In 1977 they emigrated to Israel and created a work titled 'The Third Temple'. In 1978 they settled in New York and founded the Society of Buyers and Sellers of Human Souls working with Andy Warhol and others. In 1981-83, they created work reflecting the origins of Russian social realism from which this major sardonic and ground breaking installation emerged. Their career, together until 2003 and individually since, is synonymous with challenging establishment and traditional thinking with a cutting wit and piercing satire, in a post-Soviet and *perestroika* world. See komarandmelamid.org.

The Ben Uri collection has a fine example from their 'Symbols of the Big Bang' series from 2001-2003.

Read:

[Vitaly Komar: The Avant-Garde, Sots-Art and The Bullbozer Exhibition of 1974](#)

[Vitaly Komar Interview with David Glasser: The Yalta Conference](#)

Interviews available: 12 September 12-5pm, 14 September 3-5pm and 15 September 11-5pm

Press preview from 2-5pm on the 15 September

Opening from 6.30-8.30pm on the 15 September

Exhibition installed by Vitaly Komar, open 16 September - 18 December 2016

For images please contact Celeste Heilpern at celesteh@benuri.org

For curatorial issues and requests for interviews please contact David Glasser at davidg@benuri.org

Ben Uri Gallery & Museum
108a Boundary Road, off Abbey Road
London, NW8 0RH

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Opening hours:

Monday 1 – 5.30

Tues – Friday 10 - 5.30

Sat – Sun 11– 5



Ben Uri Gallery & Museum | 020 7604 3991 | www.benuri.org
Ben Uri, 108A Boundary Road, off Abbey Rd, London NW8 0RH
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