

POVERTY AT RIVER TERMINAL

June 25, 2008

By Natalya Shushpanova

ИЗВЕСТИЯ

Marat Gelman To Open Contemporary Art Exhibition in Perm

There are plans to establish a contemporary art center in the Perm River Terminal building. On the invitation of Senator Sergey Gordeyev, Marat Gelman, well-known Moscow organizer of contemporary art exhibitions, came to Perm. This is not the first trip of the gallery owner to the Perm Territory capital. Last winter Mr. Gelman visited Perm together with artist Ilya Kabakov and both were astonished seeing the unique collection of wooden sculptures. Inspired by what he had seen, Gelman developed a concept for the Russia Poor exhibition. It will present the works of the Russian artists using the materials not usually associated with arts: wood, metal, bread, plastic cups, crockery, coat-hangers, boxes, etc. Mr. Gelman has the portfolio for the exposition already prepared, and it includes works of popular Russian artists living in various cities of the world, in particular, Valery Koshlyakov, Dmitry Gutov, Alexander Brodsky, and Sergey Volkov. "Those works come as a bombshell to everyone. People see a new outlook of the Russian art," Marat Gelman says.

Organizing the new exhibition has become, according to Boris Milgram, the Territory Minister of Culture, one of the major undertakings for his agency now. "We have got an obsession with organizing a territory of contemporary arts in Perm. And Marat has got an interest in our city and the undertaking we want to realize. We want to turn our minds towards the contemporary art which is quite far away from us still," Boris Milgram notes.

As Mr. Gelman himself tells it, the collection of works by the artists and sculptors known all over the world will be positioned exactly as the Perm concept, since it originates from here. "My good friend, your Senator Gordeyev, was getting at me, you might say, claiming that one can do nothing interesting in Moscow anymore, while in Perm it is still possible. Sergey said that he wanted some artistic project to be launched that would be on a world-wide scale and closely linked with Perm as well. The artistic life in the provinces includes traveling exhibitions arriving from the capital. Our project is radically different. The exhibition begins here and then it will travel the world over with the Perm label," Marat Gelman emphasizes.

The exhibition is to open on September 12. The gallery owner set his choice on the River Terminal building. "There are practically no spaces for art in Perm. But the Terminal building's volumes really mesmerize. The structure seemingly has been built with the creative life in mind," thus he explains his preference. As early as this coming December the exhibition will travel to the Russian Museum, then to Moscow, later it will be shown in Milan. According to Mr. Gelman, after that all the works



will come back to Perm. “The active role of Mr. Gordeyev, the open-mindedness of your Governor make Perm quite a real contender for having the contemporary art stay here on a permanent basis,” Marat Gelman declares. 

