



**VYACHESLAV AKHUNOV**  
**The Red Line**

curated by di Marco Scotini

**Opening on December 11<sup>th</sup> 2013**, at 18.30  
The exhibition will run until March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014

*Opening times:*  
*Tuesday - Saturday, 15.00 - 19.00*  
*Morning by appointment*

Laura Bulian Gallery is happy to present, as a world premiere, the first solo show in an art gallery of the Uzbek artist Vyacheslav Akhunov (1948, Och, Kyrgyzstan), curated by Marco Scotini, to be inaugurated on December 11<sup>th</sup> 2013. Some of his most representative works will be on show, including the installation *Breathe Quietly, 1976-2013*, just exhibited at 55-Venice Biennale - Central Asian Pavillon.

Vyacheslav Akhunov is an artist, writer and philosopher, whose work comprises collages, paintings, installations, performances, actions and video, as well as numerous essays. From a peripheral position in Tashkent, his artistic production is connected to the experience of 1970s Moscow Conceptualism.

Akhunov uses the typical iconography of the Socialist propaganda of the Soviet period subverting the dominant ideology through the manipulation of propagandistic images. His so-called *art-chive* establishes a social critique peculiar to the Soviet reality. In the 70's the artist wrote several essays on his art, defined by himself as 'social-modernism', which will be divulged for the first time during this exhibition.

From 1974 to 1987 Akhunov realized a series of projects dedicated to the famous revolutionary leader Lenin, including the wide serie of drawings and collage *Red Line*, now on show. The artist uses many sources for his collages - books, art magazines, newspapers, calendars and posters, in which the Lenin's representations are inserted into minimal drawings, creating an imaginary 'political' landscape.

Akhunov criticised the system, for example, digging out skeletons from public institutions as in *Art-Cheology, 1975-86*, or placing monumental sculptures of letters in a restricted exhibiting space creating an effect of suffocation, as in *Breathe Quietly, 1976-2013*, the monumental installation already exhibited this year at 55.Venice Biennale and now on show in this gallery.

During the Soviet Regime, being considered politically dangerous in the Socialist environment to freely express one's own art and in order to protect his integrity as an artist, Akhunov chose also a new format for his creative output: a notebook, an autonomous artistic medium, that could easily be hidden upon unexpected inspections.

Akhunov's work has been exhibited in important museums and institutions in the world, such as: MuHKA Museum, Antwerp (2010, 2013), Documenta (13), Kassel (2012), New Museum, New York (2011), Centre Pompidou - Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris (2008), Philadelphia Museum of Art and Kiasma, Helsinki (2007).

This year his works have been on show at 55.Venice Biennale, 5<sup>th</sup> Moscow Biennale and Singapore Biennale.

**Vyacheslav Akhunov** was born in 1948 in Och, Kyrgyzstan. He lives and works in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

**Selected shows since 2005**

**2013:** *The Red Line*, solo show curated by Marco Scotini, Laura Bulian Gallery, Milan, Italy  
*Lost to the Future*, Institute of Contemporary Arts, Singapore Biennale 2013, *If the World Changed*, Singapore  
*More light*, 5<sup>th</sup> Moscow Biennale 2013, curated by Catherine de Zegher, Moscow, Russia  
*Winter*, curated by Ayatgali Tuleubek and Tiago Bom, Central Asian Pavillion- 55. Venice Biennial, Venice, Italy  
*The Collection As A Character* MuHKA museum, Antwerp, Belgium  
**2012:** *Documenta (13)*, curated by Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, Kassel, Germany  
*Arsenale 2012*, Ukrainian Biennale of Contemporary Art, curated by David Elliott, Kiev  
*Revolution vs Revolution*, Beirut Art Center, Beirut  
**2011:** *I've Dreamt About*, MUDAM - Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg  
*Atlas. How to carry the world on one's back?*, Deichtorhallen Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany  
*Between Heaven and Earth - Contemporary Art from the Centre of Asia*, Calvert22, London, UK  
*Ostalgie*, curated by Massimiliano Gioni, New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York City, NY, USA  
*Atlas. How to carry the world on one's back?*, ZKM - Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie Karlsruhe, Germany  
**2010:** *Watchmen, Liars, Dreamers (Erudition concrete 3)*, FRAC - Ile-de-France Le Plateau, Paris, France  
*Ground Floor America*, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark  
*Lonely at the Top #5*, curated by Viktor Misiano, MuHKA, Antwerp, Belgium  
**2009:** *Changing Climate*, WUK Kunsthalle Exnergasse, Vienna, Austria  
*11th International Istanbul Biennial*, curated by WHW/What, How & for Whom collective, Istanbul, Turkey  
*The view from elsewhere. Small Acts*, Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia  
*For Keeps: Sampling Recent Acquisitions 2006 – 2009*, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand  
*"Monument to Transformation 1989-2009*, City Gallery Prague / Galerie Hlavního Města Prahy, Prague, Czech Republic  
**2008:** *Busan Biennale 2008*, Busan, South Korea  
*I dream of the stans: videos actuales de Asia central*, Museo de Arte de El Salvador, MARTE, San Salvador, Bahamas  
*Traces du Sacré - Centre Pompidou - Musée National d'Art Moderne*, Paris, France  
*Tracing Roads through Central Asia*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, USA  
**2007:** *Live Cinema/The Return of the Image: Video from Central Asia* - Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, USA  
*Time of the Storytellers*, curated by Viktor Misiano, Kiasma, Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland  
*52nd International Art Exhibition Venice Biennale*, Venice, Italy  
*La Biennale de Montréal 2007*, Montreal, Canada  
**2006:** *Singapore Biennale 2006* - Singapore Biennale, Singapore  
**2005:** *In the Shadow of Heroes*, Central Asian Biennial, curated by G.Kasmaliev & M.Djumaliev, Bishek, Kyrgyzstan  
*Central Asian Pavilion*, 51st Venice Biennale, curated by Viktor Misiano, Venice, Italy

*Breathe Quietly, 1976-2013*: Courtesy of the artist and Central Asian Pavillon at 55-Venice Biennale