



Racing, C-Print, 2006

GULNARA KASMALIEVA & MURATBEK DJUMALIEV

A NEW SILK ROAD:
Algorithm of Survival and Hope

Opening on January 14th 2010, at 18.30
The artists will be present
The exhibition will run until March 6th, 2010

Opening times:
Tuesday - Saturday 15.00 - 19.00

Laura Bulian Gallery is pleased to announce ***A New Silk Road: Algorithm of Survival and Hope***, a solo exhibition by **Gulnara Kasmalieva and Muratbek Djumaliev**, which will open on 14 January 2010, concluding a cycle devoted to emerging contemporary art from Central Asia.

These two artists, who exhibited during the 2005 Venice Biennale at the Pavilion of Central Asia, - the final frontier of the globalised art world, are now among the 8 finalist running for *Artes Mundi*, the International Contemporary Visual Arts prize, based in Great Britain: they were selected from 480 nominations submitted by more than 80 countries.

A New Silk Road: Algorithm of Survival and Hope, a five channel video-installation accompanied by a series of photographs, is their most extensive work and was created in 2007 with the support of the Art Institute of Chicago.

The fall of the Iron Curtain led to the rebirth of the Silk Road in Central Asia. Today's key players, however, are no longer camels laden with the treasures of the Orient, but lorries loaded with rusting iron and destined for Chinese industry – the legacy of the ex Soviet Empire, to be exchanged for cheap clothing.

By using documentary processes within a conceptual field, Kasmalieva and Djumaliev stage the new reality of this ancient road, set in a territory that has, moreover, become a crossroads for the economic and political interests of Russia, China and the United States; they expose the experience of their contemporaries, who, after seventy five years of sedentary life and forced collectivization under Soviet dominion, now embark on this new road of commerce.

The exhibition will also include a recent video-installation ***Spring*** (2009), where Kasmalieva and Djumaliev draw a parallel between Vivaldi's celebrated composition and the environmental and survival issues of our day.

Gulnara Kasmalieva (1960) e **Muratbek Djumaliev** (1965) live and work in Biskek (Kirghisia) .

Selected exhibitions since 2005 :

- 2009: An evening with Gulnara Kasmalieva and Muratbek Djumaliev , film screening and events, MoMa New York, USA
Praxis. Art in Time of Uncertainty. 2nd Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art, State Museum of Contemporary art , Thessaloniki, Greece (cat.)
- 2008: *A New Silk Road* , Winkelman Gallery, New York, USA (solo exhibition)
A New Silk Road, Urban screen on the outside of De Balie Building, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (solo exhibition)
Eurasia. Geographic cross-overs in art. , a cura di Achille Bonito Oliva, MART. Museo di arte moderna e contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto , Italia (cat.)
Tracing Roads through Central Asia : On Trader's Dilemmas and Travelers' Perspectives. YBCA. San Francisco, USA
- 2007: *Focus : kasmalieva and Djumaliev. Anew Silk Road : Algorythm of Survival and Hope*, The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA, solo show (cat.)
Soft Power. Asian Attitude. Shangai Zendai Museum of Modern Art, Shangai, China (cat.)
Time of Story Tellers , Kiasma Museum for Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland (cat.)
Progressive Nostalgia , Museum for Contemporary Art, Prato, Italy (cat.)
Montreal Biennale, Montreal, Canada
Sharjah Biennale : *Still Life* (cat.)
- 2006 : *Naked Life*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei, Taiwan (cat.)
Singapore Biennale: *Believe* (cat.)
- 2005: 51st Venice Biennale, Central Asia Pavilion. Venice, Italy

Selected bibliography since 2005 :

- Gwendolyn Schneider, Julia. "Zwischen den Welten. Einflussnahme und Zusammen-arbeit in der post-sowjetischen Situation Kirgistans", *Springerin*, Band XIV Heif 3 (Summer 2008)
- Foumberg, Jason. "Gulnara Kasmalieva & Muratbek Djumaliev", *Frieze*, issue 106, (April 2007)
- Sorokina, Elena. "Gulnara Kasmalieva and Muratbek Djumaliev, Plus Ultra." *Artforum* 45, no. 2 (Oct. 2006)
- Dupuis, Isabelle. "Gulnara Kasmalieva and Muratbek Djumaliev." *Flash Art* 39, no. 250 (Oct. 2006)
- McEvelly, Thomas. "Report from Central Asia: Video Comes to the 'Stans." *Art in America* 93, no. 11 (Dec. 2005).