



Moscow 2008, Silver gelatin print 30 x 40 cm

## IGOR MUKHIN

### BEING YOUNG IS DIFFICULT

Opening on May 13<sup>rd</sup> 2010, at 18.30

The artist will be present

The exhibition will run until June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Opening times:

Tuesday - Saturday 15.00 - 19.00

The **Laura Bulian Gallery** is pleased to present *Being young is difficult*, Igor Mukhin's first solo exhibition in Italy, which will be inaugurated on 13 May 2010.

**Igor Mukhin**, already acclaimed in Europe and the USA as one of the most important contemporary photographers, started his career in Russia at the beginning of the nineties, using the medium of photography to explore the youthful environment of rock subculture. Employing a highly evocative style, reminiscent of the photography of Henri Cartier-Bresson (who, among other things, was the first western photographer to be authorised to work in the Soviet Union after the Second World War), Mukhin captures scenes from city life in a country in rapid transformation, recording the post-soviet era in poetic snapshots, concentrating in particular on the phenomenon of youth subculture.

The young are the undisputed protagonists of his images: in an almost documentary mode, Mukhin portrays a generation that has witnessed the change-over from communism to capitalism, apparently caught between enthusiasm and nostalgia, between the icons of a new calling and the dusty relics of the past.

The title of the exhibition, *Being young is difficult*, is inspired by a Lithuanian film directed in 1986 by Juris Podnieks: like the director, Mukhin is the witness of a generation, and he has given us a unique vision of youth, in this case in the post-perestroika years, illustrating the disenchantment and consequences of the end of an era. Mukhin's vision never appears prefabricated, yet it is devoid of ideological references and reflects a uneasiness that belongs specifically to the young.

Though some of the photographs are historic images, most of the photographs presented in this exhibition will be on show for the first time, all the images are black and white silver gelatin prints.

Igor Mukhin (1961) lives and works in Moscow. His photographs are present in public and private collections all over the world.

#### Principal exhibitions held since 2002:

2010: *Photobiennial 2010*, Moscow, Russia

2008: *KievFotoCom. International Festival of Photography*, Kiev, Ukraine

*Frictions and conflicts - cultural influences and exchange in North-east Europe*. Kalmar Art Museum, Sweden

2007: *Sots Art. Political Art in Russia from 1972 to today*. La Maison Rouge, Paris, France

2006: *Photography from the collection*. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA

2005: *The Russian vision on Europe*, Le Centre d'Art de Rouge-Cloitre, Brussels, Belgium

*Street, Art and Fashion*. Foto Museum Provincie, Antwerpen, Belgium

2004: *Igor Mukhin. Contemporary Russian Photography*, The Camera Obscura Gallery, Denver, USA (solo exhibition)

*Generation Next*, Auditorium parco della musica, Rome, Italy

2003: Anahita Gallery, Santa Fe, USA (solo exhibition)

*Moskauer Jugend im 3. Jahrtausend. Moskauer Tage in Berlin*, Kulturbrauerei, Berlin, Germany

*Wien - Moscow*, Krinzinger Projekte, Vienna, Austria

2002: *Moscou - Paris*, House of Photography, Paris, France (solo exhibition)

*Moscow, International Photography Festival*, Pingyao, China

**Public collections:** MoMA, New York; The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.; The Museum Moscow House of Photography, Moscow; The Moscow Museum of Modern Art; National Centre for Contemporary Arts (NCCA), Moscow; National Centre for Contemporary Arts (NCCA), Nizhni Novgorod; Museum of Fine Art, Santa Fe; Maison Europeenne de la Photographie, Paris; Fonds National d'Art Contemporain (FNAC), Paris; Denver Art Museum, Denver; Latvian Museum of Photography, Riga; Wien Museum, Vienna; Bank UBS Collection.