

MERLIN CARPENTER

All Power to the Factory Outlets - Burberry Propaganda Tour Summer 2013

Estonia - Latvia - Russia - Lithuania - Poland - East Germany

kim? Contemporary Art Centre, Riga

One night event: July 16, 2013

In 2010, British artist Merlin Carpenter exhibited thirty-seven pictures at the Miami gallery Formalist Sidewalk Poetry Club. Each was a piece of fake Burberry check textile stretched on a large wooden frame. Shipped in a container to Tallinn in May 2013, they remained on show at Temnikova & Kasela gallery through June.

When the show ends in Tallinn, the artist returns to Estonia to pack up these works in a van and take them on a tour around Eastern Europe. Carpenter re-stages the mission undertaken by Leon Trotsky during the Russian Civil War. Trotsky's armoured Propaganda Train travelled to the many fronts on which the Red Army fought the Whites and was equipped with artillery, telegraph, printing press, and elite fighters.

Equipped with only luxury branded artworks and a smile, the Propaganda Van will move through the former Soviet Bloc from Tartu, Vana-Kasepää, Hiiumaa and Narva in Estonia; Riga and Jurmala in Latvia; further to Moscow and St. Petersburg in Russia; Vilnius, Lithuania; Warsaw, Poland; ending up in Berlin, former GDR. With quick stop-offs organised in these and other locations—whether a top-notch institution or forest glade—the tour will proceed from place to place promoting the Burberry paintings to local inhabitants.

The van will arrive in Riga on July 16 for a one night presentation. All are welcome.

Merlin Carpenter drove an empty van from London to Porto last year as an art piece. His recent solo shows include "POLICE" at dépendance, Brussels (2013); "funky house" at Li-mazulu, London (2012); "TATE CAFÉ" at Reena Spaulings Fine Art, New York (2012), and Simon Lee Gallery, London (2011). „Heroes“ at MD72, Berlin (2011); and a show at Overduin and Kite, Los Angeles (2011).

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