

# FOXY PRODUCTION

OLGA CHERNYSHEVA, NEW WORK  
September 9 - October 11, 2008

Foxy Production presents *New Work*, an exhibition of recent photography and video by Moscow-based artist Olga Chernysheva. Chernysheva has developed a distinctive and poetic iconography: figures are framed and constrained by doors, desks and hallways; lights form dramatic patterns; objects are entombed in covers and people are cocooned by their clothing; points of view are skewed at unexpected angles; the verticals and horizontals of cityscapes, and the geometric shapes of seemingly incidental objects take on a powerful, symbolic resonance.

In *New Work*, Chernysheva fuses this visual language to her native city, dramatizing the experience of loss, isolation, and renewal. Moving between empathy and voyeurism, and belief and disillusionment, she appropriates Realism to question what can be known and what can be held as truth. Recalling the strategies of artist Catherine Opie, Chernysheva here forges a critical and yet affective space within a documentary practice that grapples with the relationship between person and place.

Chernysheva's gelatin-silver prints of the Alley of Cosmonauts, the famous avenue of statues dedicated to the heroes of Soviet space travel, wittily capture its deterioration and the seemingly wayward attempts to salvage it. With the commemorative busts tightly wrapped in material as if to protect them from the present, and blocks of stone lying every which way, Chernysheva's camera passes a lyrical eye upon the Alley's faded glories and fallen pride. The Monument "To the Conquerors of Space", a Modernist needle piercing the sky, seems to vainly struggle against the anarchy below it.

Chernysheva's photographic series, *Moscow Area*, frames people and objects within tunnels, hallways, counters, facades, and rows of trees and light-poles. Moodily lit yet effusing a sense of impassivity and resignation, her photographs portray a city that seems to have given up its secrets: their noirish lighting, rather than creating mystery, suggests a world of surface and flatness that is paradoxically radiant and atmospheric.

Chernysheva's video *Untitled: Dedicated to Sengai* portrays a street vendor selling a child's erasable sketchpad on a bleak city square. Opening with a close-up of the seller's face, Chernysheva's camera reveals a keen self-possession and determination. Demonstrating her product, the seller draws and deletes and then redraws the square, triangle and circle of Sengai's famous painting *Universe* with a Zen-like demeanor.

*From the Deputy* is a series of black and white transparencies of a municipal public art project in various stages of decay and erasure. Forlorn and vandalized murals have been overlaid with a stenciled statement from the city chief, announcing his benevolence in commissioning the project. Presenting tensions between social policy and artistic practice, the series memorializes the work of the original artist while questioning whether autonomy is possible.

*New Work* is Chernysheva's second solo exhibition at Foxy Production.

OLGA CHERNYSHEVA (Moscow, Russia, 1962) lives and works in Moscow. She holds a BA from the Moscow Cinema Academy, Moscow and an MA from the Rijksakademie Van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam. Selected exhibitions include: MoMA, New York (solo screening); Lunds Konsthall, Sweden (two-person) (both 2008); Moscow Biennale for Contemporary Art (2007); Stella Art Foundation, Moscow (solo) (2006 & 2005); Biennale of Sydney; Museum Folkwang, Essen; Hamburger Kunsthalle; Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg (all 2006); Moscow Multimedia Center for Contemporary Arts, Moscow (solo); Solomon R Guggenheim Museum, New York (both 2005); The State Russian Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia (solo) (2004); State Historical Museum, Moscow; National Museum of Contemporary Art, Oslo; Museum of Contemporary Art, Zagreb (all 2004); Russian Pavilion, 49th International Art Exhibition, Venice Biennale; Kunstlerhaus Vienna, Austria (both 2001).

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OLGA CHERNYSHEVA

NEW WORK, September 9 - October 11, 2008



UNTITLED: DEDICATED TO SENGAI, 2008, Installation view



ALLEY OF COSMONAUTS, 2008,  
Gelatin silver fiber print  
11 6/8 x 8 1/8 in / 29.7 x 21 cm

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ALLEY OF COSMONAUTS, 2008, Gelatin silver fiber print  
11 6/8 x 8 1/8 in / 29.7 x 21 cm

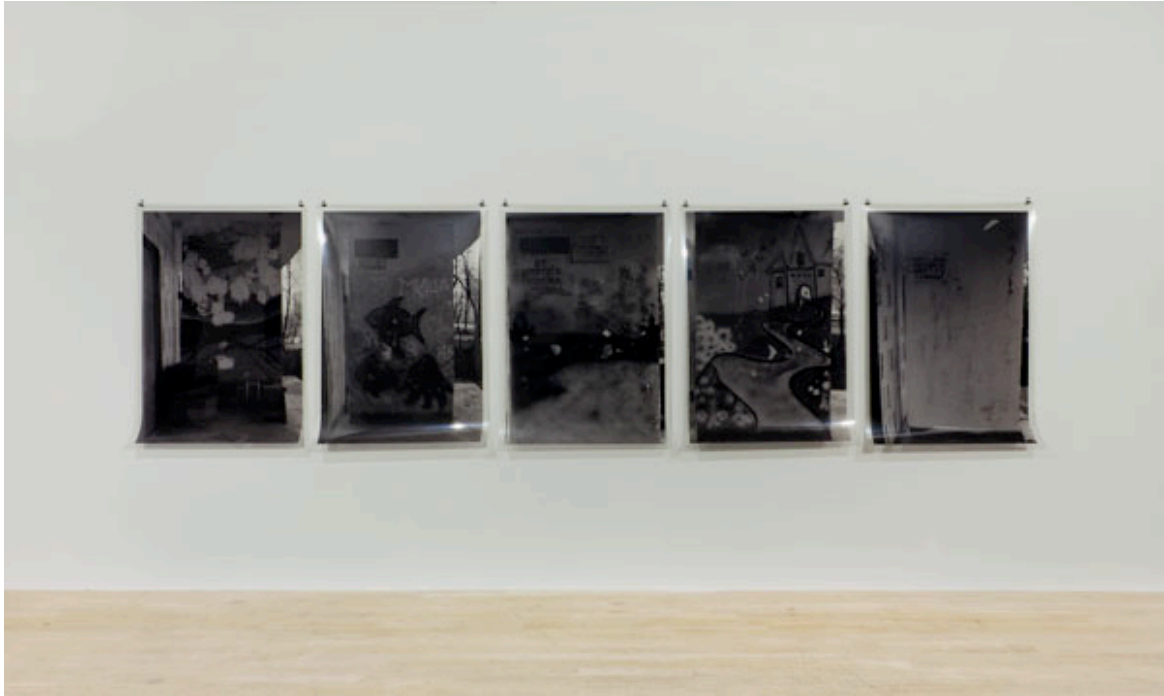


ALLEY OF COSMONAUTS, 2008, Gelatin silver fiber print  
11 6/8 x 8 1/8 in / 29.7 x 21 cm

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FROM THE DEPUTY, 2008, Installation view



FROM THE DEPUTY, 2008, Duraclear print. 47 x 31 1/4 in/ 119.4 x 79.4 cm  
Edition of 5 + 2 AP

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NEW WORK, 2008, Installation views

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NEW WORK, 2008, Installation view



MOSCOW AREA, 2008, Installation detail

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UNTITLED: DEDICATED TO SENGAI, 2008, Video, Dimensions variable  
6:09 mins, Edition of 5 + 2AP



ALLEY OF COSMONAUTS, 2008, Installation view

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