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Press release

Pasmur Rachuko solo exhibition: 'I like you'

Opening: October 26, 2019 19:00

The exhibition runs until November 8, 2019

Address: Gogol Center, 8 Kazakova Street, Moscow

I like you

In the large and fabulous country of Russia there is one main central kingdom and many small peripheral districts. All of these have lost their particularities and merged into one huge periphery, squeezed out of the orbit of the wonderful, successful center. The borders between these districts cannot be marked on a map, they occur in time or space and in the most unexpected way. From time to time, the periphery breaks through into the real world in alarming flashes, as demons break through in spots of weak energy, bringing chaos as they rebel against the ruling kingdom. 'Sad Boy' Pasmur Rachuyko becomes the arbiter of this dark revolt, showing us things we are not always ready to see — a whole array of disturbing beings penetrate our reality.

They are fairy-tale characters frozen inside their story, halfway through an unknown initiation in an unknown time, but in a familiar space. Just as fairy tales grow as a profanation of the sacred world of myth, Rachuyko's 'spirits' become the carriers of a new folklore and at the same time, of a decolonialised poignancy. Those who have been ousted (from the center) are shown here, shorn of the forced civility of everyday life in the 'periphery', as a political gesture heralding the transfer of power through art. The heroes of Pasmur Rachuyko's 'fairy tales' look down at us like saints in icons, their poses reminiscent of both the Renaissance great masters of the and social media photos from *Odnoklassniki* or *Vkontakte*. With his arrogant claim to high art, his incredible impudence in equating the 'base' with the 'eternal', this phony artist can't fail to contaminate us with his intensity. This transfer of power reaches its height as the artist includes his own self-portraits as a series of different domineering characters, ranging from a member of *Rosgvardia* (Russian National Guard) to a *gopnik* (petty criminal) from out of town, literally assuming their power and so neutralising the nightmare of life in the notorious 'periphery'. Now figures of authority look at us from familiar landscapes, from the kind of interiors we know well and we see that they are the same as us, that we too have power, albeit only in a fictional space up to now. The 'periphery' is silent as long as there is a kingdom at the center - and art is silent as long as there are words. So it's now high time for me to bring my own reign to an end, by ending this text.

(text: Anastasia Vepreva)

This is the artist's first solo exhibition in Moscow.

“I Like You” is part of the project “NA RAJONE / Beyond the center”.

Pasmur Rachuiko

Born 1986 in Rostov-on Don, Russia. Educated at the St. Petersburg State University of Culture and Arts.

Has been working in painting since 2012, using a subjectivist pantheon of symbolic characters and pop culture memes, among which self-portraits occupy a key position, being placed in the context of issues surrounding gender, social and national identification.

As well as painting, the artist carries out performances using locally foraged foods as media, such as snails and nettles.

Works by the artist are held in private and museum collections in Coldrerio (Switzerland), Milan (Italy), Kiev (Ukraine), San Francisco and Philadelphia (USA), Moscow and St. Petersburg (Russia).

Currently based in Russia.

Source: <https://www.pasmurr.com/info>

Exhibitions: <https://www.pasmurr.com/exhibitions>

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