

PACE LONDON

PRESS RELEASE

Pavel Pepperstein *Debris of the Future*

6-10 Lexington Street, London, W1F 0LB
11 February – 15 March 2014

Opening: Monday 10 February 2014, 6.30 – 8.30 p.m.



Pace London is pleased to present an exhibition of new drawings and paintings by Pavel Pepperstein from 11 February to 15 March 2014 at 6-10 Lexington Street. *Debris of the Future* will be Pepperstein's first exhibition with Pace and coincides with the UK-Russia Year of Culture programme initiated by the British Council and the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At once intriguing and confounding, Pepperstein's pictorial language appropriates the Suprematist iconography of the Russian avant-garde, impregnating its minimalist forms with mysterious figures drawn from Russian folklore, Hollywood films, science fiction and the artist's own ingenious fantasies.

Self-titled "psychedelic realist", Pepperstein's practice develops out of a desire to forge a new Russian representative style that will salvage the remnants of a rich cultural history being woefully destroyed in the name of progress.

The title of the exhibition, *Debris of the Future*, proposes that the remnants of the past-utopian projects-will form the building blocks of the future. Pepperstein's vision calls for the rebirth of Suprematist vocabulary, epitomised by Malevich's *Blue Triangle and Black Square*, which would ultimately serve to challenge Western cultural domination.

Highlights of the exhibition include the diptych *The Rider and The Supreme* (2013) and *The Supreme of Navigation* (2014). Taking on a distinctively Soviet avant-garde aesthetic, the paintings symbolise the triumph of a maritime civilisation over a land civilisation, the victory of the West over the East. Pep-

pepperstein hereby complements the visual language of the Suprematists by incorporating naval themes. Corresponding with the Suprematist graphical elements that sprout from the mouths of two Hollywood characters in *The Language of the Future* (2013), Pepperstein anticipates a time when Russian culture will permeate the global consciousness, emerging even from national American symbols and pictorial tropes.

The text, words and sentences combined with his use of primary colours complement Pepperstein's palette. In Pepperstein's vision "the beauty of wreckage" and "hope for the future" are intertwined concepts.

"Each work can be interpreted in the context of the exhibition but also outside of this context, as a completely autonomous and self-sufficient work. The pleasurable mental and emotional states caused by different combinations of colours and shapes, must ensure the renaissance of ideas and sensations in the future. It's only by falling in love with a piece of the past that we can learn to love our future." Pavel Pepperstein, January 2014.

A brilliantly adept draftsman, Pepperstein succeeds in combining seemingly contradictory cultural and historical signifiers within mystical compositions that proffer the viewer an insight into the possibility of a Russian national artistic language.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Pavel Pepperstein was born in 1966 in Moscow. From 1985 to 1987 he studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. In 1987 he co-founded the experimental group of artists called Inspection Medical Hermeneutics (P.Pepperstein, S. Anufriev, Y.Liederman, V. Fedorov). The ideology of Medical Hermeneutics was the fusion of incompatible descriptive language, from contemporary western philosophy and Orthodox theology, Daoism and Buddhism to the language of psychiatry and pharmacology, which created a completely unique manner of expression. Since 1989 Pepperstein has been an independent artist, writer, critic, art theorist and rap musician. His work is a continuation of the tradition started by the Moscow Conceptual School. In 2009 Pepperstein represented Russia at the Venice Biennale where his installation *Landscapes of the Future* was widely acclaimed and received numerous outstanding reviews from critics. Pepperstein's works have been exhibited in many museums and galleries in Russia and around the world, including The Louvre. His paintings, drawings and installations can be found in the Tretyakov State Gallery in Moscow, the Russian State Museum in St Petersburg, the George Pompidou Centre in Paris and in many private collections both in Russia and abroad. Pepperstein's various articles on the problems presented by contemporary art have been published both at home and abroad.

Pace

Pace is a leading contemporary art gallery representing many of the most significant international artists and estates of the 20th and 21st centuries. Founded by Arne Glimcher in Boston in 1960 and led by Marc Glimcher, Pace has been a constant, vital force in the art world and has introduced many renowned artists' work to the public for the first time. Pace has mounted more than 700 exhibitions, including scholarly exhibitions that have subsequently travelled to museums, and published nearly 400 exhibition catalogues. Today Pace has seven locations worldwide: four in New York; two in London; and one in Beijing. Pace London inaugurated its flagship gallery at 6 Burlington Gardens with the exhibition *Rothko/Sugimoto: Dark Paintings and Seascapes*, 4 October – 17 November 2012.

Pace London at 6-10 Lexington Street is open to the public from Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. www.pacegallery.com/

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Image: Pavel Pepperstein, *The heads of the abstract figures*, 2013, acrylic on canvas, 180 cm x 120 cm (70-7/8" x 47-1/4") © Pavel Pepperstein