

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – APRIL 2003

Evening Events: **April 16 and April 23, 2003**  
Exhibition: March 26, 2003 – May 26, 2003

**Upcoming Events in conjunction with  
“Détente: Russian Contemporary Art in Video Format”**

Curated by Nina Zaretskaya, TV Gallery, Moscow

The following live events and public conversations engaging contemporary Russian art and society will accompany the exhibition:

**Komar & Melamid, Arden Reed, Kevin Platt**  
**Wednesday April 16, 2003; 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm**

Event Title: "Collaboration Between Two Worlds: Selling Russia to the West"  
Format: Lecture & Public Conversation  
Information online: <http://slought.org/toc/calendar/display.php?id=1155>

An evening performance and slide lecture by Komar & Melamid, followed by public conversation with Arden Reed and Kevin Platt.

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**Eleanor Hartney, Larry Litt, Nina Zaretskaya, Aaron Levy**  
**Wednesday April 23, 2003; 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm**

Event Title: "Making Video, Being Political: Russian Art in an International Context"  
Format: Lecture & Public Conversation  
Information online: <http://slought.org/toc/calendar/display.php?id=1156>

An evening lecture, with screenings, by Eleanor Hartney, introduced by Nina Zaretskaya and followed by public conversation with Larry Litt, Nina Zaretskaya, and Aaron Levy.

The Slought Foundation exhibition "Détente: Russian Contemporary Art in Video Format," on display through May 26, 2003, features recent work by noted Russian artists Oleg Kulik, Leonid Tishkov, AES (Tatyana Arzamasova, Lev Evzovitch, Evgeny Svyatsky), and Olga Stolpovskaya. Exhibition curated by Nina Zaretskaya, TV Gallery, Moscow. "Détente" invites a reconsideration of Russian contemporary art being viewed as esoteric or subservient to the West.

Exhibition information, biographies and film titles available online: <http://slought.org/toc/calendar/display.php?id=1140>  
Events sponsored by Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Pennsylvania.

Slought Foundation, Philadelphia encourages new futures for contemporary life through critical theory and dialogue about art. Our live events, exhibitions and publications engage alternative curatorial and artistic practices.

For additional information, please contact Aaron Levy at 215.746.4239 or email [adlevy@slought.org](mailto:adlevy@slought.org)

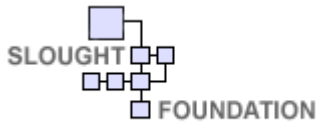
**EXHIBITION SPACE, OFFICES**

Slought Foundation  
4017 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-3513

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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<http://slought.org>

Slought Foundation Executive Director, Curator: Aaron Levy / Head Curators: Osvaldo Romberg, Jean-Michel Rabaté, Louis Cabri



### **April 16, 2003 Participant Biographies**

**Komar & Melamid.** Vitaly Komar (1943) and Alexander Melamid (1945) were born in Moscow. They attended and graduated from the Stroganov School of Art and Design in 1967. During the late 60s and early 70s, Komar & Melamid founded the movement "Sots Art," which combined the principles of Dadaism and Socialist Realism. They collaborate on various conceptual projects, ranging from painting and performance to public sculpture, installation, and photography. In 1974, their work, along with the work of other underground artists, was destroyed by Soviet authorities at the "Bulldozer Exhibition." By 1978 they were living in New York. Projects in the 90s are devoted to statistics ("People's Choice") and ecology (collaboration with animals, "Asian Elephant Project"). Komar & Melamid's most recent project, "Symbols of the Big Bang," connects mysticism and science. Major individual exhibitions: Museum of Modern Art (Oxford) and Museum of Decorative Art, the Louvre (Paris), 1985; Brooklyn Museum of Art, 1989; Museum of Modern Art (Cologne), 1997; Kuntshalle Vienna, 1998; Venice Biennial, 1999. Collections: Guggenheim Museum (New York), Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), Whitney Museum of American Art (New York), Museum of Modern Art (New York), Victoria and Albert Museum (London), Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam), Albertina (Vienna), Museum Ludwig (Cologne), San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, etc.

**Arden Reed.** Arden Reed, Professor of English at Pomona College, California, is the Author of "Manet, Flaubert, and the Emergence of Modernism: Blurring Genre Boundaries" (forthcoming from Cambridge, in Norman Bryson's "New Art History" series), and a prize-winning book on European Modernism. He is a regular contributor to *Art in America* (an article on the Manet/Velazquez show will appear in the May 2003 issue). He recently organized a colloquium on art and attention, whose participants included James Turrell, Bill Viola, Lev Manovich, and Pauline Oliveros.

**Kevin M. F. Platt.** Kevin M. F. Platt is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of *History in a Grotesque Key: Russian Literature and the Idea of Revolution* (Stanford UP, 1997) and a number of articles concerning the representation of Russian history in literature and the arts. He is currently at work on a book about Peter the Great and Ivan the Terrible as Russian political and cultural myths in works of the last two centuries up to the present day.

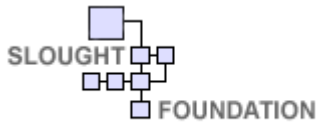
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### **April 23, 2003 Participant Biographies**

**Eleanor Heartney.** Eleanor Heartney is a New York based art writer and cultural critic. She is Contributing Editor to Art in America and Artpress and has written extensively on contemporary art issues for such other magazines as Artnews, Art and Auction, The New Art Examiner, the Washington Post and the New York Times. A collection of Heartney's essays was published in 1997 by Cambridge University Press under the title "Critical Condition: American Culture at the Crossroads". Her "Movements in Modern Art: Postmodernism" was published in 2001 by the Tate Gallery Publishers in conjunction with Cambridge University Press. Heartney was the 1992 recipient of the College Art Association's Frank Jewett Mather Award for distinction in art criticism and has also received grants from the New York Foundation for the Arts and the Asian Cultural Council.

**Larry Litt.** Larry Litt is a writer, performer and filmmaker whose work has appeared at the Venice Biennale, the Queens Museum of Art, the Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art, the Apokalypsa Festival in the Czech Republic, and the Seoul Media Fluxus Festival. He is currently at work on a series of films under the series title The Blame Show, the most recent of which has been commissioned by the Palm Beach Institute of Contemporary Art.

**Aaron Levy.** Aaron Levy is Curator and Executive Director of Slought Foundation, an arts organization, gallery, and archival resource engaging contemporary life through critical theories about art. His curatorial projects include ongoing lecture series, conferences, exhibitions, publications and recordings featuring artists and theorists, also online.

### **Curator Biography**

**Nina Zaretskaya.** Nina Zaretskaya lives and works in Moscow and New York. She is a documentary producer and founding director of Art Media Center "TV Gallery" (1991), a Moscow institution responsible for the appearance and development of video art and the art of new technologies in Russia. Nina Zaretskaya has curated and organized numerous exhibitions including "Total Recall" (dedicated to Phillip K. Dick), "This Other World of Ours" (video installations by Young British Artists), and "Medium is the Message" (presentation of work by Nam June Paik), introducing contemporary foreign art to Russian audiences. Her recent show "Femininity's Redress," held at Angel Orensanz Foundation Center for the Arts, New York, initiates a multi-phase project presenting progressive Russian women artists to the Western public.

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