

ART from ESLEWHERE: Mexico City
The MOMENTUM Collection at LAGOS

VADIM ZAKHAROV



***BAFF BAFF! What Are The Politicians Talking About* (2021), Video Performance, HD with sound, 4'20" (edited for exhibition from original 65 min. performance)**

Vadim Zakharov's recent video work presents an all too fitting commentary on our current state of affairs where politicians spout nonsense at one another while remaining unable to stop the atrocities of war. *BAFF BAFF! What Are The Politicians Talking About* invokes the talking heads we see on news programs every day, recounting an equally incomprehensible reality, which would be surreal were it not so tragic.

ARTIST STATEMENT:

In the video performance, non-verbal words are read aloud, most of which have been found in the magazines “Mickey Mouse” (German editions) and also taken from the books “Tintin The Mysterious Star” and “Asterix & Obelix The Laurels of Caesar”. The words collected in the non-verbal vocabulary have no meaning, but only phonetically reflect certain events: someone has fainted (BLIEP!), a glass has broken (CRACK! CLIRR!), a helicopter has crashed into a cupola (KAROMMS!), a museum has collapsed (CRACK! THUNDER! CRIME!).

The Reader (Vadim Zakharov), wearing a white shirt and a tie, recites these words seriously and forcefully. The image of a politician is created, a public figure who professionally and convincingly is ready to say something on any occasion. At the same time, we see that these are just empty words – bubbles that float away as soon as they reach our ears. The film highlights the absurdity of what we see and hear every day on television and the internet.

At the same time, reading non-verbal words can be perceived as reading poetry...

- *Vadim Zakharov*

Vadim Zakharov (b. 1959 in Dushanbe, UdSSR (now Tajikistan). Lives and works in Berlin and Cologne, Germany.)

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Vadim Zakharov is an artist, editor, archivist of the Moscow Conceptual art movement, and collector. Since 1979 he has participated in exhibitions of unofficial art and collaborated with such artists as: V. Skersis, S. Anufriev, I. Chuikov, A. Monastyrski, Y. Leiderman. In 1982–1983 he participated in the AptArt Gallery, Moscow. Since 1992 till 2001 he has published the “Pastor” magazine and founded the Pastor Zond Edition. In 2006 he edited book “Moscow Conceptualism”. His retrospective was held at the Tretyakov Gallery in 2006. He represented Russia at the Venice Biennale in 2013 with

the project "DANAE". In 2016-2020 Zakharov organized the exhibition space "FREEHOME-Artist to Artist" in Berlin.

Selected honors and awards include: Griffelkunst-Preis, Hamburg (1995); Renta-Preis, Kunsthalle Nürnberg (1995); Soratnik Prize, Moscow (2006); Innovation Prize, Moscow (2006); Joseph Brodsky Memorial Fellowship Fund, American Academy in Rome (2007); Kandinsky Prize – Best Work of Year, Moscow (2009); Kaissering Art Prize – Germany's most prestigious art award (2023).

In addition to numerous solo and group exhibitions, Vadim Zakharov has participated in many biennales of contemporary art, including: the 49th Venice Biennale, "Plateau of Humankind", (Director Harald Szeemann, Arsenale, 2001); 1st Thessaloniki Biennale, "Black Birds" installation (Museum of Byzantine Culture, 2007); 55th Venice Biennale, Vadim Zakharov, "Danaë", Russian Pavilion (2013); 5th Moscow Biennale, Vadim Zakharov, "Dead Languages Dance. Fall collection", (TSUM, 2013); "2014. Space Odyssey", CAFAM BIENNALE, Beijing (2014); 3rd Biennale of Bahia, Museum of Modern Art of Bahia (2014); 14 Krasnoyarsk Museum Biennale, Russia (2021).

Vadim Zakharov's works are held in many prestigious public collections, including: Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA; TATE Modern, London, UK; Modern Art Museum, Frankfurt, DE; Deutsche Bank Collection, Frankfurt am Main, DE; Kupferstienkabinet, Berlin, DE; Ludwig Museum, Aachen, Budapest; Saint Petersburg, RU; Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers USA; Museum of Art at Duke University, USA; Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest, HU; Strasbourg Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, DE; Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow, RU; Russian Museum, Saint Petersburg, RU; Museum of Modern Art, Moscow, RU; Moscow Collections of the NCCA, Moscow, RU