

As seen in the
September 2009 issue

AMERICAN
art COLLECTOR



UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 25 works on show

September 18–October 11, 2009

Abend Gallery

2260 E. Colfax Avenue

Denver, CO 80206

(303) 355-0950

• SHOW LOCATION DENVER, CO

OLGA AND ALEKSEY IVANOV



In sync

Olga and Aleksey Ivanov are a family team of artists who, for almost 20 years, have been working simultaneously on the same pieces. Because they work as one, their upcoming exhibition of new Trompe L'oeil paintings at Abend Gallery in Denver, Colorado, is being hailed as a solo show.

The couple met as students at the Moscow Art Institute and immediately began their unique collaboration. The Ivanovs

favorite medium is egg tempera, which was used universally by the masters until the 15th century. The Ivanovs have illustrated over 70 books here and abroad focusing primarily on children's books.

"We have been working in a studio together, never more than three feet apart, for nearly 20 years now, and we don't plan to change this chemistry," the couple stated. "It sounds cliché, but we are much more than a husband and wife who happen to

share an artistic vision. We produce art as one, starting with the conceptualization of each image. We spend an enormous amount of time (sometimes weeks) talking and sketching out ideas about each new piece—arguing, laughing, brooding, teasing out the details every step of the way, before we start producing it."

Once the Ivanovs have decided on a direction for one of their new creations, they set about building it from scratch—together.



VERMILLION OR SALT OF SUCCESS, EGG TEMPERA ON WOOD PANEL, 22 X 28"

The Gallery Says . . .

"The Ivanov duo has delivered a show full of illusion and irony. Expressive subjects of playful figures dominate the wooden canvases layered with the traditional Russian Orthodox iconography medium of egg tempera. The work has roots in a renaissance style with a color palette comparable to that of Fra Angelico and Filippo Lippi, however contradicts the context classical iconography by using contemporary 'pop' icons."

— *Christine Serr, Abend Gallery*



SALT OF LIFE, EGG TEMPERA ON WOOD PANEL, 19 X 19"



HONEY SKY, EGG TEMPERA ON WOOD PANEL, 18 x 36"



THEATER AND LIFE, EGG TEMPERA ON WOOD PANEL, 29 x 36"



DANAE, EGG TEMPERA ON WOOD PANEL, 18 X 18"

"It might be said that we love preparing each piece of wood almost as much as we enjoy the alchemy of preparing and producing our egg tempera, gold or silver leaf, and color palette," they say. "Again, both of us have our own respective role in the production and optimization of these materials, roles that have evolved and been refined over roughly 20 years of collaborating with each other."

When they start painting, the collaboration enters its final phase, rotating

back and forth between their respective easels.

"A single painting will undergo dozens of rotations between each easel before it is deemed ready for the show."

Inspiration comes from a variety of sources, the couple says, ranging from the whimsical to the ordinary.

"... The completely illogical, often random, and completely unpredictable transformation of ordinary things to modern icons and the extent to which some of us are instrumental (or sometimes not)

in this transformation," say the Ivanovs. "Hopefully we convey a (playful) curiosity about modern icons and the blurring lines between the inanimate and animate objects that become icons in our world today."

Olga and Aleksey say they are constantly evolving and adapting, while always holding onto a "renaissance golden thread." ●

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to 
www.americanartcollector.com