

## PRESS RELEASE



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*Cafe, 2007, 20 cm x 30 cm*

## GLUKLYA at SLICK 08

23 October – 27 October 2008

Galerie Blue Square is pleased to present St. Petersburg artist, Gluklya, at SLICK 08. Gluklya is representing herself (Natalia Pershina-Yakimanskaya) and her partner, Tslapya (Olga Egorova), who founded together the Factory of Found Clothes (FFC) in 1995. This duo today is one of the most active performance groups on the Russian art scene.

The work of the FFC is dedicated to exploring social problems of man as expressed through personal gestures. In evoking the feminine, the maternal, or the infantile, the artists aim at exploring concrete symptoms of social unease. Clothing, as representing the disguised body, has stayed the principal medium of expression during their years of work together.

Today, the evolution of FFC is accompanied by distinct, separate works by each artist in pursuit of intense interaction with daily life and those links that underscore social pathos. Without losing their own auto(irony), Gluklya and Tslapya affirm, "the work of the artist is to become a fighter and not a decorator." Their works, however, have been able to achieve both an aesthetic and social purpose.

At SLICK 08, Gluklya presents her clothing-objects with an accompanying performance involving these clothes, her watercolors, and their videos. A project will also be announced which invites participants to throw themselves into new type of self-discovery based on an item of clothing that will result in creation of an "inside-out" psychological portrait.

Gluklya was born in 1969 in Leningrad, now St. Petersburg, where she continues to live and work. Last year Gluklya + Tslapya won the prestigious "Black Square" prize for their video "Three Mothers".

Extract from the group's 2002 Manifesto:

*Art is not an abstract game but an adventure; not cold rationalism, but live emotion. The artist is not a mentor or tutor, but a friend; not a genius, but an accomplice. Rather than enacting didactic social projects, we must help people stop fearing themselves; help them to accept themselves and grow better. Society is made up of people. Only by helping these people follow the path of self-transformation, do we change society.*

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