



Galleria Giampaolo Abbondio

Peter Belyi

Bio

Through his works, Russian artist **Peter Belyi** (Leningrad, URSS, 1971) performs an investigation into the origins of cultural conscience. For a number of years, the artist has carried forward a project he has entitled “commemorative modeling,” a term coined in the Soviet Union during the 1920s to indicate a utopian architecture projected into the future.

Within Belyi’s artistic production, the terms and meanings of this form of historical modeling are overturned, and the concept comes to mean a reinterpretation of history that becomes a deconstruction of history. For example, the architecture of buildings like factories and hospitals, typical of 1970s Russia, are adopted and represented in the form of mausoleums, created out of drywall in an advanced state of destruction, precisely as if these unfinished architectural constructions had been bombarded into skeletons of their former selves. They are transfigured, becoming emblematic of an ideology that, like those precarious constructions, has fallen into ruin.

Belyi’s most recent projects, on the other hand, appear to grapple more directly with the materials the artist utilizes. It seems as if the artist is searching for inspiration within the material itself, or, in an entirely personal and secret dialogue between himself and his chosen material, he expects the material itself to suggest the themes for his artworks. In this manner, Peter Belyi aims to achieve a perfect interaction between aesthetics and materiality, one that coincides in a tautological manner with the meaning of the artwork he creates.



Peter Belyi
Silence (2019)
reclaimed wood
350 x 350 x 350 cm

Selected Solo Exhibitions and Projects

2024

BEYOND CONTROL, Name Gallery, St Petersburg

BEYOND CONTROL, Italian Palace Museum, Kronshtat

2023

ROMANTIC APOCALYPSE V, Name Gallery, St Petersburg

KAPUT MORTUM, NeNeMu, St Petersburg

LINE on the HORIZON, Museum of Political History, Sestroretsk

2022

ROMANTIC APOCALYPSE IV - Ilullissat Art Museum, Greenland

ROMANTIC APOCALYPSE – I, Antonov Gallery, St Petersburg

ROMANTIC APOCALYPSE II, Giampaolo Abbondio gallery, Todi, Italy

ROMANTIC APOCALYPSE III, Navicula Artis, St Petersburg

2021

RETURN TO PAINTING, Borey gallery, St Petersburg

CONCRETE REVELATION, Iragui gallery, Moscow

2019

HOLES, NeNeMu, St Petersburg

LAYER, Gisich Gallery, St Petersburg

SHORT CIRCUIT, Exhibition Hall of the Library of Artists' Books, St Petersburg

2018

POINT ON THE HORIZON, Perm Museum of Modern Art, PERMM, Perm

MY NEIGHBOURHOOD, MIArt, Milan

COURSE, Gallery PACK, Milan

OBSCURE LIGHT, Roxi Ciocca, Milan

2017

UNECESSARY ALPHABET, Ground Peschanaya, Moscow

AXONOMETRIC PROJECTION, Navicula Artis, St Petersburg

2016

KING OF THE HILL, Anna Akhmatova Museum, St Petersburg

ANATOMY OF THE CUBE, Borey Gallery, St Petersburg

2015

RESISTANCE IS USELESS, Museum of Street Art, St Petersburg

ZUBYA, Museum of Russian Avant-garde, St Petersburg

2014

MEMORIAL MODELLING, Katzen Arts Center, American University, Washington D.C

2013

COURSE - Gisich Gallery, St Petersburg

RED LOGS – Museum of Political History, St Petersburg

FREEFALL – Chetvert, St Petersburg

2012

TOWER OF HOPE – Krasnyi Treugolnik, St Petersburg

ART NOT FOR ALL – Navicula Artis, St Petersburg

2011

SPRINGBOARD – XL Gallery, Moscow

RED METEORITE – Krasnoyarsk Biennale, Krasnoyarsk

TERRITORY OF LIGHT - Alliance Francaise, St Petersburg

A4 - Gisich Gallery, St Petersburg

PAUSE - Navicula Artis, St Petersburg

ROOM OF AN OUTCAST- Moderniat, St Petersburg; KultProekt, Moscow

2010

FOREST- Frants Gallery Space, New York

SILENCE- Museum of Modern Art, Perm

2009

SILENCE, Galleria Pack, Milan, Italy

UNTITLED- C.A.G Gallery, St Petersburg

2008

BAD NEWS- Guelman Gallery, Moscow

LA BIBLIOTECA DI PINOCCHIO- Galleria Pack, Milan; Daneyal Mahmood Gallery, New York

2007

UNNECESSARY ALPHABET- Anna Frants Gallery Space, New York

DANGER ZONE- Daneyal Mahmood Gallery, New York

MEMORIAL MODEL-MAKING- Gisich Gallery, St Petersburg

MINUTE OF SILENCE- Navicula Artis, St Petersburg

LENPROJECT- State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg

2006

UNNECESSARY ALPHABET- Belka and Strelka, St Petersburg

KRUG2- Gisich Gallery, St Petersburg

CLIMACTIC ZONE- Navicula Artis, St Petersburg

2005

SH854- Guelman Gallery, Moscow

PRIVATISATION OF THE CHIMNEYSTACK- New Realms Gallery, London

MY NEIGHBORHOOD- 1st Moscow Biennale, Central Exhibition Hall

2004

METAPHORICAL SLIDE TOWER- Pinacoteca Udine City Museum, Udine, Italy
IDEOLOGICAL ANTHILL- Manezh, St Petersburg

2003

DREAMS OF A DICTATOR- Art Manezh, Moscow
HEAD OF THE ARTIST- Gisich Gallery, St Petersburg
DREAMS OF A CONCIERGE- Navicula Artis, St Petersburg
DREAM OF A TRITON- Anna Akhmatova Museum, St Petersburg

Selected Mixed Exhibitions

2024

THE WAVE, Krasnoyarsk Biennale of Contemporary Art. Museum Centre Krasnoyarsk

2023

DIALECT. Museum of Notes. St Petersburg

2022

DENUNCIATION, ACC Galerie, Weimar

2021

BUTTERFLY, «Di Profundis» Exhibition, “Golubitskoe” Art Foundation
METRO FOUNTAIN, Art Prospect, St Petersburg

2019

WOODCUTS FROM THE RUSSIAN MUSEUM COLLECTION, St Petersburg

2017

ROMANCE WITH THE REVOLUTION, Weimar ACC, Germany
SILENT VOICES, ProARTE, St Petersburg

2016

ST PETERSBURG CONTEMPORARY ART, Pyarnu and Tartu, Estonia
UNMOTIVATED REJECTION, Pro Arte, St Petersburg

2015

ON MY WAY, parallel programme, Venice Biennale, Italy

2014

CRYSTALLIZATION, Turku Museum of Contemporary Art, Turku, Finland
BEYOND ZERO, Calvert 22, London, UK SIGNAL, St Petersburg, Russia

2013

SOURCE – V Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, main exhibition, Moscow
CAPITAL OF NOWHERE, Venice Biennale special project, Venice

2012

TOWER OF HOPE in FUTUROLOGIA, Voyage a Nantes, Nantes
IN ABSOLUTE DISORDER, Arts Santa Monica, Barcelona

2011

PAUSE in group show – Ekaterinburg Centre of Contemporary Art
RUSSIA POVERE – PAC, Milan FREEDOM – Bologna Art Fair, Bologna

2010

FUTUROLOGY, Garage, Moscow
HOMELESSHOME, Museum on the Seam, Jerusalem

2009

KANDINSKY prize show - Moscow
RUSSIA 21- Viktor Pinchuk Art Centre, Kyiv, Ukraine

2008

RUSSIA POVERE- Perm Museum of Contemporary Art, Perm

2007

SOMETHING ABOUT POWER- 2nd Moscow Biennale, L Gallery, Moscow
BORDER TERRITORY- Mars Gallery, 2nd Moscow Biennale, Moscow
ARCHITECTURE AD MARGINUM- State Russian Museum, St Petersburg

2006

MODUS R- Art Basel Miami Beach, Miami

2005

PITERSKIE- Art Moscow
POST MODELLISMUS- Krinzinger Projekte, Vienna
COLLAGE IN RUSSIA- State Russian Museum, St Petersburg

Museums

The Margulies Collection – permanent collection – Miami, USA
Russian State Museum – permanent collection - St Petersburg, Russia
PERMM, permanent collection – Perm, Russia
Murmansk Art Museum – permanent collection – Murmansk, Russia
Ashmolean Museum – RE Diploma collection – Cambridge, UK
Victoria & Albert Museum – permanent collection – London, UK
Museum of St Petersburg 20th-21st Century Art, St Petersburg, Russia

Awards

2014

INNOVATION curatorial project of the year 2014 - National Centre for Contemporary Art, Russia

2011

Krasnoyarsk Biennale Award

2010

Kurekhin Prize for Contemporary Arts – Visual Art Project

2005

Novosibirsk Print Biennale

2003

Birgit Skiold Prize – National Print Exhibition

2000

Galleries Magazine Award – National Print Exhibition

Selected Curatorial Projects

Founder and curator of LUDA gallery 2009-ongoing, St Petersburg

2023

DIVISION, Yeltsin Centre of Democracy. Ekaterinburg

2021

PARK OF MELACHOLY, Garage, Moscow

HOMO DUPLEX – Frants Foundation, St Petersburg

2020

NEOINFANTILISM – LUDA gallery, Name Gallery, St Petersburg

2019

NEW BLOCKHEADS, Zurich Kunsthalle, Zurich and Mishkin Gallery, New York

2018

PORTRAIT OF THE SOVIET ARTIST AS A YOUNG MAN, Anna Akhmatova Museum

2017

MY TIME TO DECAY, YOUR TIME TO BLOOM, Estonia and St Petersburg

2016

NEW BLOCKHEADS, Moscow Museum of Modern Art

2015

SHAPE OF THE UNSEEN, PERMM Museum of Contemporary Art

2014 SIGNAL – THE ART OF NOW, KB 'Signal', St Petersburg

THE AESTHETICS OF RESISTANCE, parallel program of MANIFESTA 10, St Petersburg

2013

NEW ARCHIVE, Iris Foundation, New Holland, St Petersburg

CREDO QUIA ABSURDUM, Museum of Soviet Naiveté, Perm; Museum of Political History of Russia, SPb

LIKE WHAT, Anna Nova, St Petersburg

2012-2013

INVISIBLE BORDER, Kultproekt, Moscow

2012

LUDA-EXPRESS, Iris Foundation, New Holland, St Petersburg

2011

KITSCH LIKE THE WORLD, Library of Book Graphics, St Petersburg

2010

HYDROPON, Live Perm 2009 THIS IS LUDA, Loft Etazhi, St Petersburg

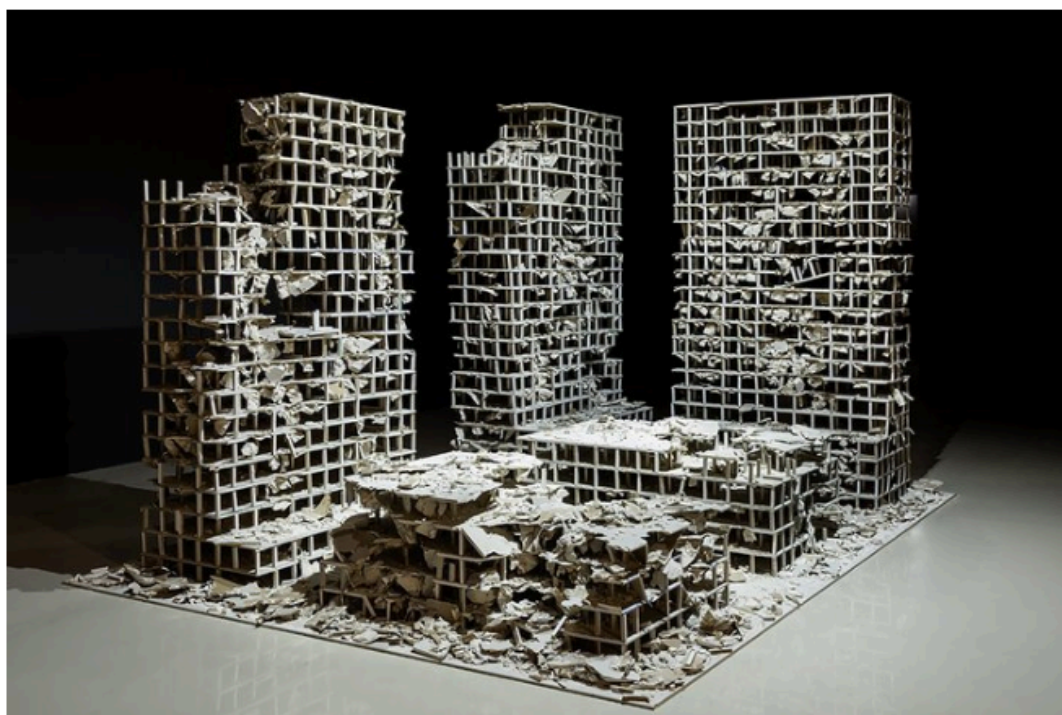
2009

THIS IS LUDA, Loft Etazhi, St Petersburg

Peter Belyi – Art Focus Now

<https://artfocusnow.com/people/peter-belyi-and-the-archaeology-of-the-present/>

Over the past two decades Peter Belyi has made projects using the most diverse of materials: old roofing tin from houses in St. Petersburg in the 'Unnecessary Alphabet'; he modelled architecture from found vintage slides in 'My Neighbourhood'; he assembled the 'Pinocchio Library' from huge pine planks that for centuries had been languishing in old houses due to be demolished; there was the 'Dangerous Zone' installation built from plasterboard and then partially destroyed, the large-scale ruin of an entire city block. In 2010, Belyi received the prestigious Sergei Kuryokhin Award for his project 'Explosion', assembled from old, broken planks, but literally stopped time, hovering in space, somehow dynamic, yet still.



Peter Belyi. *Danger Zone*. Installation, mixed media. Dimensions variable.
'Point on the horizon' exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art
PERMM. 2018

As the artist explains, 'My artistic DNA is minimalism. This approach came to me originally as a kind of adolescent protest against excess. The language of Soviet and Russian art is quite obscure. We don't have a lot of artists who express themselves clearly and distinctly. So Arte Povera and American minimalism are very important to me as a methodology, as something to keep in mind all the time, as an ability to speak in an extremely concentrated way. How does the baroque coexist with minimalism? I always hold onto minimalism as a measure, a kind of gold standard that allows you to remove all unnecessary things and get to the heart of an idea. Because there is always the danger of getting carried away with the material and drowning in it. To

Peter Belyi – collectible DRY magazine

<https://collectibledry.com/art-design/hide-meanings-aviewnotawindow-obscure-light-peter-belyi-milan/>

Throughout this work, the Russian artist wants to reflect – and make the urban passenger reflect too – on one of his favorite theme: the language. The world is full of hidden meanings that, like pure lines of white neon lamps, can light up our existence. The main fault of the words is to be powerless in front of these meanings: they hide them, wrap them and bury them, creating a truly web difficult to figure out.



"Obscure light", realised for the first time ten years ago, wants to represent this human condition: cables made of rubber – *"A synthetic product that, unlike wood or stone, has no memory of some other shape"* as Belyi said – are interwoven each other as words of a cryptic text, or maybe as a simple message, and try to obstacle that epiphany-light to shine. Even if it seems there's no hope to survive to this destiny, the artist gives us a chance: the glow in fact, for its nature, is more vigorous and *"It's only through the confusion of the message and its visual chaos that the true meaning is revealed to us."*

Works



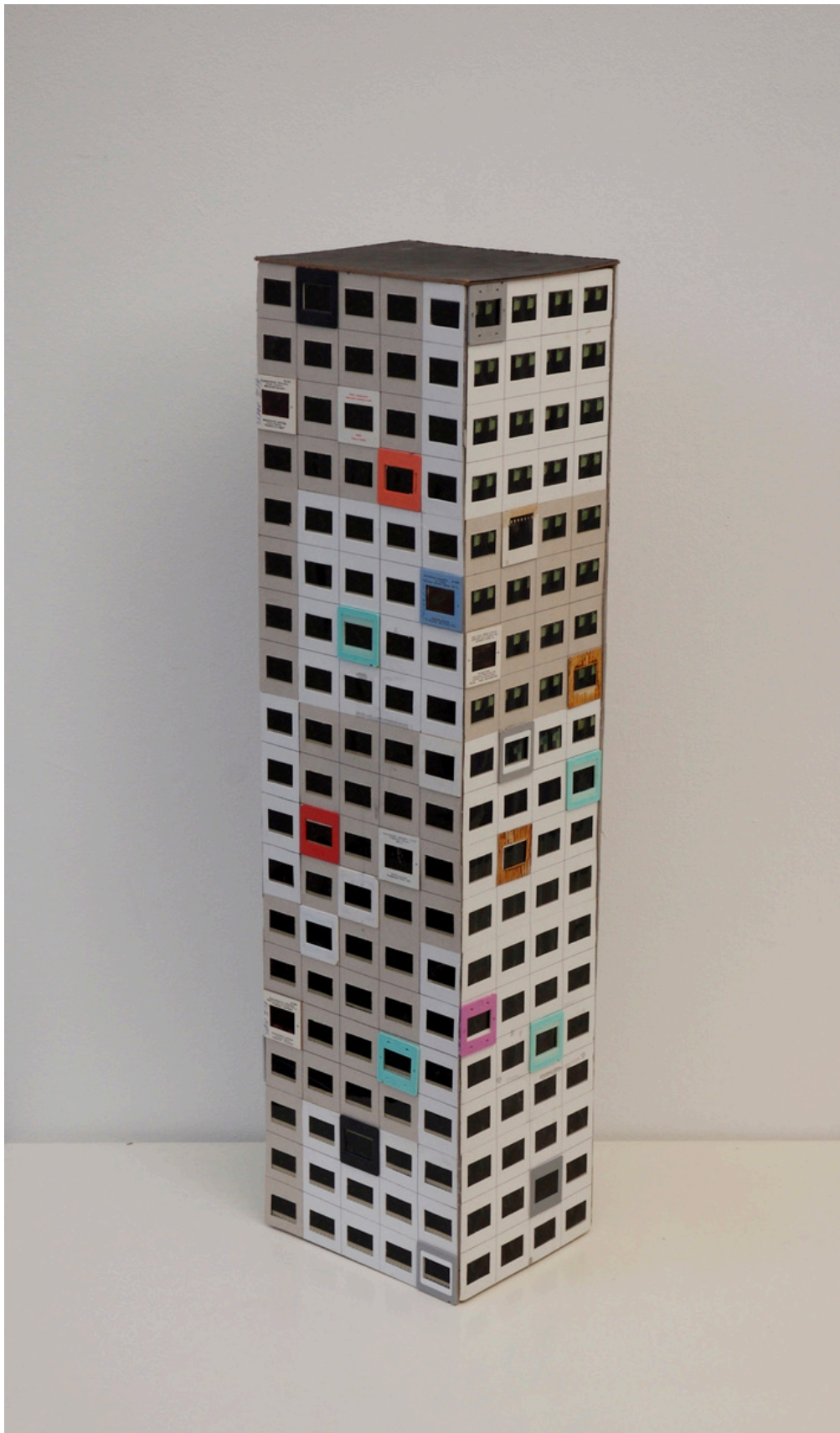
Peter Belyi
Landscape 2011
metal, wood
40 × 45 cm



Peter Belyi
666-005, 2022
monotype
190 × 120 cm



Peter Belyi
Return to Painting 2022
concrete, metal, plastic
90 × 46 cm



Peter Belyi
My Neighbourhood 2004
cardboard, photographic slides, plastic and halogen lamps
26 x 20 x 101 cm



Contatti

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