

**NEW**  
**235 BOWERY**  
**NEW YORK NY**  
**10002 USA**  
**MUSEUM**

victoria –                      виктория –  
the art of being                искусство быть  
contemporary                 современным

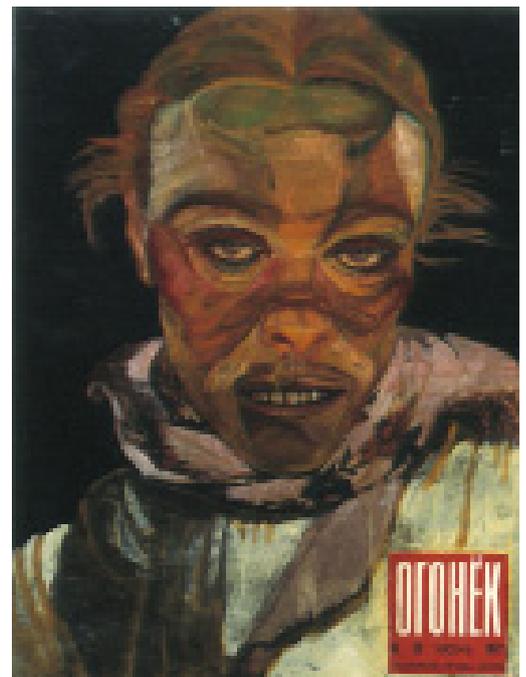
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**New Museum and Victoria - the Art of being Contemporary  
to Present "Ostalgia," a Major Survey Devoted to Artists from Eastern Europe  
and the Former Soviet Republics  
Multi-floor Exhibition Will Be on View from July 14 - September 25, 2011**

New York, NY... This summer, the New Museum will present "Ostalgia," an exhibition that brings together the work of more than thirty artists from twenty countries across Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Republics. Contesting the format of a conventional geographical survey, the exhibition will include key works produced by Western European artists who have depicted the reality and the myth of the East. "Ostalgia" is curated by Massimiliano Gioni, Associate Director and Director of Exhibitions, and will be on view at the New Museum from July 14 through September 25, 2011, occupying all major galleries.

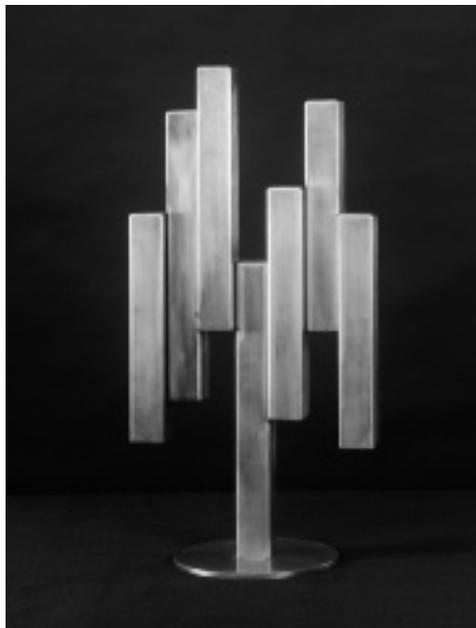
The exhibition takes its title from the German word *ostalgie*, a term that emerged in the 1990s to describe a sense of longing and nostalgia for the era before the collapse of the Communist Bloc. Twenty years ago, a process of dissolution began, leading to the break-up of the Soviet Union and the many other countries that had been united under socialist governments.

From the Baltic republics to the Balkans, from Central Europe to Central Asia, entire continents and nations were reconfigured, their constitutions rewritten, borders redrawn. "Ostalgia" looks at the art produced in and about some of these countries, many of which did not even exist two decades ago. Mixing private confessions and collective traumas, the exhibition describes a psychological landscape in which individuals and entire societies try to negotiate new relationships to history, geography, and ideology.



Sergey Zarva, Untitled from the series "Ogonyok," 2001. Courtesy the artist

The works in “Ostalgia”—both from the East and West—describe the collapse of the Communist system while offering a series of personal reportages on aspects of life under Communism and in the new post-Soviet countries. In particular, the survey exposes the peculiar place that artists came to occupy in socialist countries, acting simultaneously as outcasts, visionaries, and witnesses. “Ostalgia” similar atmospheres and sensibilities across nations and histories: It is an exhibition that is more about a state of mind than a specific place in time.



Hermann Glockner, *Beam-Tree*, 1970. Courtesy the artist

Some of the preoccupations that seem to unite the artists in “Ostalgia” are a romantic belief in the power of art as a transformative, almost curative agent; an obsession with language and particularly with its propagandistic use; the conception of a new aesthetic of the body to contrast with the heroic bodies of Socialist Realism; a fascination for the ruins of history as represented by monuments and architectural vestiges; and an understanding of the artwork as a form of sentimental documentary that mediates between cultural pressures and individual anxieties. By combining seminal figures from the 1970s and 1980s, along with the work of young artists, “Ostalgia” does not follow a simply chronological perspective, establishing instead a series of dialogues between different generations and distant geographies. Exposing local avant-garde practices and discovering international affinities, “Ostalgia” composes an imaginary landscape, tracing the cartography of a dream that haunted the East, for ultimately “Ostalgia” is

### Exhibition support

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### About the New Museum

The New Museum is the only museum in New York City exclusively devoted to contemporary art. Founded in 1977, the New Museum was conceived as a center for exhibitions, information, and documentation about living artists from around the world. From its beginnings as a one-room office on Hudson Street to the inauguration of its first freestanding, dedicated building on the Bowery designed by SANAA in 2007, the New Museum continues to be a place of ongoing experimentation and a hub of new art and new ideas.

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