

EAST and **WEST** • **ART** and **POWER**



1945



Vitaly Komar and Alexander Melamid

Open Daily • Free Entry

**Ben Uri Gallery & Museum, 108a Boundary Road
off Abbey Road, London NW8 0RH**

Monday 1–5.30pm | Tuesday–Friday 10am–5.30pm | Sat–Sun 11am–5pm

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 **100**
ART IDENTITY MIGRATION

LAUNCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM TOUR

at Ben Uri in St John's Wood just off LONDON'S FAMOUS ABBEY ROAD

First presentation for over 25 years of this historic installation by Russian non-conformist and unofficial artists, Komar and Melamid, who were the founders of the illegal Sots Art (Pop Art) under the totalitarian Soviet regime in the early 1970s. Sots Art was a conceptual movement that united unofficial and official Soviet Realist art for the first time. Both artists were expelled from their teaching posts and considered subversive, arrested, and their work in the infamous 1972 Bulldozer exhibition was destroyed by the authorities. They were eventually allowed to leave the Soviet Union to emigrate to Israel as stateless persons in 1977 and their journey ended when they were allowed to immigrate to the USA in 1978 where they settled in New York and have since cemented their international reputation.

Their monumental installation, *Yalta 1945*, from 1986-1987, was first exhibited at Documenta 8 in 1987 and The Brooklyn Museum of Art in 1990.

Ben Uri launches the international tour in St John's Wood, bringing to London for the first time a work of this scale by the artists.

Yalta 1945 addresses power and ideology through the historic decisions of old foes, but necessary temporary allies Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin, who had united to defeat Hitler and Nazi Germany.

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Nearest Tube stations: St John's Wood, Maida Vale and Lilburn

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