



One Year On: Gallery Elena Shchukina

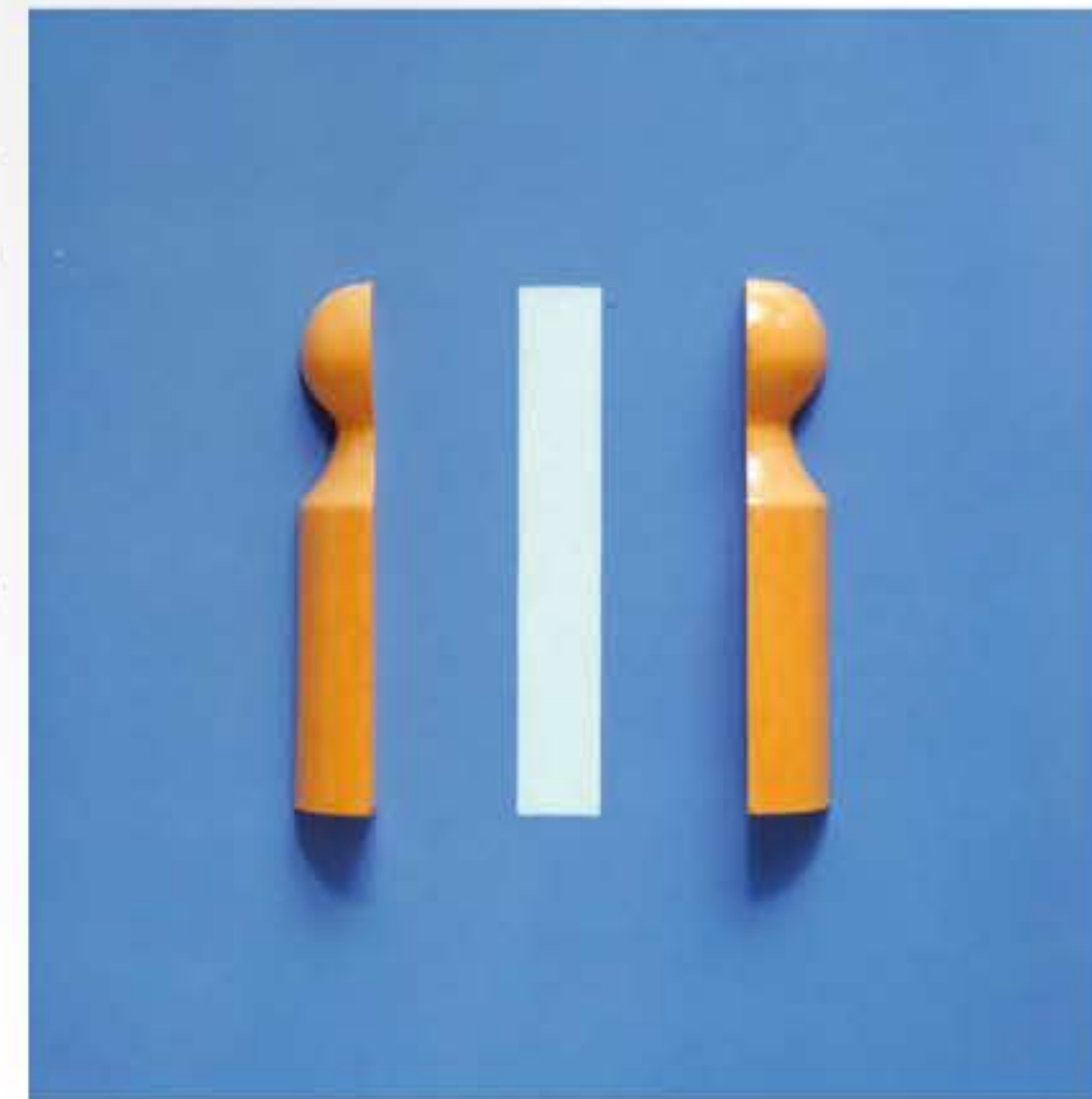
It has been almost a year since the Russian-born artist and curator Elena Shchukina opened her eponymous gallery in Lees Place, Mayfair and the past eleven months have seen Gallery Elena Shchukina making a significant mark on the London art scene with Shchukina opening her second gallery space on Knightsbridge's Beauchamp Place in March 2014.

When the first gallery opened in September 2013, Shchukina was clear in her ambitions. She wanted to change the way that Londoners looked at gallery space and challenge the traditional 'white cube' format that is prevalent throughout the capital's art scene, an endeavour in which so far Shchukina has been successful. What separates the space in Lees Place apart from so many other galleries in the capital is the pioneering approach that Shchukina has taken to interior aesthetics. The gallery is a space in which furniture, lighting, objet and sculptures are all specifically curated to create a fully immersive aesthetic experience that is unique to Gallery Elena Shchukina.

Of course, the art chosen by Elena Shchukina has been another key reason why Lees Place is a must visit destination for many an art lover. Since the gallery opened its doors to the public, works by numerous talented and internationally renowned artists have been exhibited including those by: Onyeka Ibe, Allan Forsyth and Miguel Kohler-Jan.

Gallery Elena Shchukina is set to impress over the next few months, with the first ever UK exhibition of Leningrad born artist Leonid Borisov (1943-2013) entitled Lessons in Geometry. The exhibition spans five decades of artistic production from the Soviet to post-Soviet eras. The show features a wide range of media including painting, sculpture, collage and photography. Borisov was a contemporary artist who embraced the new western art movements and tendencies whilst remaining a deeply Russian artist rooted in traditions of the Russian avant-garde. He established himself within Soviet Nonconformist Art (1953-1986) through his articulation of the geometric aspects of the historical Russian avant-garde. Borisov rejected the trends that were prevalent amongst the artistic crowds in St. Petersburg during the 1970s and 1980s and instead looked towards the Moscow School of Conceptualism, creating abstract art which aimed to subvert and reject the Socialist Realism style of art that was prevalent in the USSR during this time.

Elena Shchukina is ready to become a powerhouse in the Russian art scene. Gallery Elena Shchukina will be sponsoring the upcoming Russian Art Week from 21 - 29 November 2014. Russian Art Week is the UK's only week-long festival of Russian art with auctions and cultural events held around London over the week. This year's first art week saw a staggering combined total of £64m in sales at the four major auction houses. Added to this, the Borisov exhibition will be ongoing from 8 September 2014 - 16 January 2015; and from mid-September, the second gallery space at Beauchamp Place will be hosting a series of



shows entitled Born in the USSR, which is set to showcase contemporary design from 10 young emerging furniture and product designers from the former Soviet Union.

From showcasing the work of artists from a variety of styles and backgrounds, to challenging the way that we perceive and appreciate art galleries, it has certainly been a busy first year for Lees Place, and it is most likely that the next 12 months will be just as eventful.



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