



ICONOSTASIS is a recent cycle of paintings by the Russian artist **Katia Margolis**. Inspired both by Venice and by the Russian tradition of icon painting, the works explore the themes of love, loss and eternity.

The cycle comprises works painted on abandoned antique printing blocks, each an exquisitely tactile and textured object in its own right. Margolis uses tempera, ink and gold wax to create images on the blocks, giving them new life as devotional objects.

The resulting 'icons' explore a range of subject matter: the cityscape of Venice and the lagoon, everyday objects, architectural fabric, music, light and colour. They are complemented by a series of larger paintings on wood panel, and by projected light installations.





Katia Margolis was born in Moscow in 1973. She is an artist, writer, translator, illustrator, graphic designer and teacher. She has lived and worked in Venice for over ten years.

Her paintings and installations have been regularly exhibited in Venice, Moscow and St Petersburg. There are examples of her work in collections throughout Europe, the USA and Russia. Recent cycles of her painting feature predominantly Venetian imagery and investigate the interplay of love, loss, memory and eternity. She also explores these themes in her first book, *Footprints on Water* (Sledy na Vode) that was published to critical acclaim in May 2015 by Limbakh of St Petersburg.

Katia Margolis devised and illustrated the book *Quaderni Veneziani: Joseph Brodsky and Others*, an intricate exploration of underlying themes and references in Brodsky's Venetian masterpiece, *Watermark*. She also illustrated a children's book by Brodsky, *The Ballad of the Little Tugboat*, published by Pink Giraffe of Moscow. It formed the centrepiece of a national award-winning project, *The Art of the Book*, presented in New York in 2010. All sale proceeds were donated to 'Grant Life!' in London and Moscow, a foundation set up for

the benefit of children suffering from cancer. Over the last ten

years she has curated a series of annual exhibitions in major Russian museums devoted to art created by these young cancer patients.

In addition to her work with 'Grant life!', Katia Margolis has devised and delivered several art projects for children over the years. These include the 'Bambiennale' children's art courses in Venice, culminating in an exhibition that coincided with the Venice Biennale.

Katia Margolis has published numerous articles and essays on the arts and literature, as well as translations of Italian, Russian, English and

Polish prose and poetry. Other literary projects include illustrations to *Venezia: Paradiso Ritrovato*, a collection of work by eleven contemporary Russian poets co-published by the Vassilij Polenov Association and Eurocrom 4 (Incons) in 2011. The edition formed part of the Year of Russia in Italy and Italy in Russia programme sponsored by the Russian government.

Katia Margolis graduated in linguistics at the Russian State University for the Humanities in Moscow. She later studied linguistics at the University of Padua. She also studied and taught at the University of Melbourne where she was an Australian Government Doctoral Fellow. In Venice she collaborates with Ca' Foscari University, the Accademia delle Belli Arti di Venezia, La Casa delle Parole, and the Venice Biennale. She also teaches at the Scuola Internazionale di Grafica in Venice where she served as artist-in-residence in 2012.

Katia Margolis lives and works in Venice.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2000 Centro Studi Italiani di Mosca

2001 Museo Chukovskij

2001, 2002 Moscow School of Graphic Design

2002 Museo Okudzhava

2004 Biennale di Calcografia (Venezia, Palazzo delle Prigioni)

2004 Artista in Formato (Venezia, galleria Venezia Viva, collective)

2005 Art Manege (Moscow, collective)

2005 The Magic Colors of Venice (San Zaccaria Art Centre, Venice, Italy)

2006 Sixty Square Inches (Perdue University Galleries, USA, collective)

2006 Gallery Europe (USA, collective)

2006 Private Gallery (Venice, Italy)

2006 Russians Reflections (Washington DC, Russian Cultural Center)

2007 Cose di Dacia, presentazione del progetto Venezia - Cà Bernardo, Università di Cà Foscari

2007 Icone Quotidiane, SpazioEventi - Libreria Mondadori - Giardini della Biennale, Venice - in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the publication of the Italian edition of Doctor Zhivago by Boris Pasternak.

2007 Cose di Dacia, Venice, Cà Bernardo, Cà Foscari University.

2010 Walk-in-Progress, Galleria S.Eufemia, Venice

2010 Walking on Water, installations, graphics and objects, 70th anniversary of Joseph Brodsky.

Museo Anna Akhmatova San Pietroburgo, Russia (catalogo)

2010 Semiotic Tritychs (photography and paintings) Galleria S.Eufemia, Venice

2011-2012 Snowmarks/Watermarks (installations, graphics, objects, paintings, photography), Palazzo Zenobio per L'Arte, Venice.

2012 Parabole (paintings, graphics, photography), Galleria S.Eufemia, Venice

2013 Non e' Qui: sette passi verso la luce / He Is Not Here: seven steps towards light/ ЕГО ЗДЕСЬ НЕТ: семь шагов к свету (site-specific installations, photography, graphics), Chiesa dei Carmini, Venice, in partnership with the 55th Venice Biennale.

2014 ЕГО ЗДЕСЬ НЕТ: семь шагов к свету. Museo Anna Akhmatova San Pietroburgo, Russia (catalogo)

2015 Brodsky Landscapes, Gallery Kultprojekt, Moscow.