

Exhibition - Skopia Gallery

Erik Bulatov
Part II

Opening

Tuesday 1st March 2022 from 11:00 to 20:00

Exhibition until April 30, 2022

Opening hours

Tuesday – Friday 11:00 - 18:30

Saturday 11:00 - 17:00, and by appointment

"In July 2015, I visited a 19th century foundry¹ building for the first time. The interior space of this building immediately struck me. A huge space, abandoned, half-destroyed, but filled with the feeling of a past power and a fantastic energy now lost, with, at the same time, signs of rebirth, of the beginning of a new life with a different character. The whole thing made a deep impression on me, perhaps even a tragic one, but certainly not one marked by sadness.

I immediately had the intuition of an astonishing resemblance between this space and the social space that characterizes present-day Russia as well as the European reality. And, naturally, I wanted to work with this place to try to find an image that expresses this resemblance.

Today we can see the result of this work that occupied me for a year. It consists of four paintings and two objects. In the four paintings, only one word appears: вперед [forward]. It is, of course, a declaration, a slogan, a call to go towards a brighter tomorrow, which is represented in each of the paintings by a rising sun. The word вперед [forward] is always written twice, but in different directions. Thus, we have, in fact, not "forward - forward", but "forward - backward". Finally, we find ourselves in the same place.

This is the normal negative result of the clash between a statement and reality.
[...]

Here we have both our disappointment at the realisation that forward movement does not necessarily lead to progress and our dismay today."

Erik Bulatov

Bulatov, Erik (2018). *Espaces de liberté*. Nouvelle édition Place, Paris.

¹ This is The Foundry, a space created by artist Andrei Molodkin within a former foundry located in Maubourguet