

MICHAEL ODNORALOV:
ALICE FROM THE LOWER EAST SIDE

October 16, 1997 - January 2, 1998

SPECIAL RECEPTION FOR THE ARTIST:
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 FROM 2:00 TO 4:00 PM

Lehman College Art Gallery is pleased to present the first major exhibition of the work of Michael Odnoralov since his arrival in the United States 18 years ago. The exhibition, curated by Alexandre Gertsman, will be accompanied by a color catalogue with essays by Robert C. Morgan and Elizaveta Plavinskaya. There will be a special reception for the artist on Sunday, November 9 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. The public is invited to attend.

Michael Odnoralov played a significant role in the artistic life of Moscow of the sixties and seventies. As a chairman of the *Initiative Groups for Protection of Artist's Rights*, Odnoralov (together with Vitaly Komar, Alexander Melamid and Oscar Rabin), organized a series of apartment and studio exhibitions that became no less significant than the Bulldozer Exhibition for the development of contemporary art in the 1970's. In 1979 Odnoralov moved to the United States.

Odnoralov's series, "Alice from the Lower East Side," was inspired by Lewis Carroll's masterpieces, *Through the Looking Glass*, and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. It deals with intercultural coexistence and is set in the neighborhood where the artist had lived until recently and where he still works. The series presents an adolescent girl in a period of passage. Like Alice's passage through the looking glass, these paintings operate with the logic of dreams, metaphorically providing connections. The imagery is fragmented. A young girl is depicted with symbols of childhood innocence and those of adult awakening.

Odnoralov's art, spiritual in its essence, deals with metaphysical issues as well as purely visual ones. Michael Odnoralov was a pupil of Robert Falk, one of the last important Russian painters of the early twentieth century avant garde era and a teacher with a passion for the school of Cezanne. Those who know the artist's work will be amazed by the metamorphosis that has taken place in the last decade. These works describe a transition and entry into a new life which draws upon the old and completely reconfigures it.

Also on exhibition: TATYANA NAZARENKO: TRANSITION
Color catalogue with essays by Donald Kuspit and Judd Tully.

Lehman College Art Gallery is located on Bedford Park Boulevard West and Goulden Avenue in the Northwest Bronx. The Gallery is open Tuesday - Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 960-8731.