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Galerie Gmurzynska Pays Homage To The Centennial Of The Russian Revolution In Art Basel Booth

In 1918, W. Magat and N. Rosenfeld sketched out a design plan with pops of color to decorate the Theater-Square in Moscow to commemorate the first anniversary of the Russian Revolution.

“You can see Bolshoi Ballet, and Red Square, and all the monuments of Moscow being decorated for one of those great ceremonial processions, avant-garde ceremonial processions, when it was a fantastic thing,” explained curator and art historian Norman Rosenthal. “You see the whole of Moscow — what a spectacle. The tomb of Lenin, and so on.”



Galerie Gmurzynska's Art Basel in Miami Beach 2016 booth (Galerie Gmurzynska)

The piece is part of One Hundred Years Ago: The Future Languages Of Art In Russia Around 1917 — [Galerie Gmurzynska](#)'s booth, which pays homage to the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution — at Art Basel in Miami

Beach. The stand is a precursor to the upcoming Russian avant-garde exhibitions next year at the Tate Modern and the Museum of Modern Art. “It’s important to show because of the influence of the Russian avant-garde on contemporary art was very strong in the 1950s and ‘60s for minimalism, but also it’s been coming back,” said the Zurich gallery’s CEO Mathias Rastorfer. “A lot of contemporary artists are looking at that today.”



Galerie Gmurzynska's Art Basel in Miami Beach 2016 booth (Galerie Gmurzynska)

The exhibition, which runs at Art Basel in Miami Beach through December 4, was designed by Claude Picasso and curated by Rosenthal, who said the period was an amazing epoch for creativity. “The Russian Revolution and the years leading up to it was a period of unbelievable hope, of optimism,” said Rosenthal. “The optimistic side of Communism.”



Galerie Gmurzynska's Art Basel in Miami Beach 2016 booth (Galerie Gmurzynska)

The historical exhibition features the work of several important avant-garde artists, like Alexander Rodchenko, whose spherical sculpture of circles hangs above, and Michail Larinov, whose 1910 nude gouache on paper hangs in on a yellow half circle in the booth. It also serves as a historical survey, culling from design, fashion, advertising, and architecture. It shows a 1920s dress design by Ilya Chashnik, a reconstruction of a graphic red, black and white coffee set by Rodchenko, and an architectural sketch by Anatoli Golubev. “If you were to take the stand in one go, you would have the most amazing archive of that world, which is one of the most precious moments of the history of the 20th century,” said Rosenthal.