

Kami

I was born in Volgograd, currently live in St. Petersburg. I've graduated the class of printed graphics in art school, the Academy of Arts - the Department of Theory and History of Arts, seriously engaged a theatre art. Now I study at the school of the "What is to be done" art group.

I work with various media, acting as an artist and curator.

Recently I have been working on the topic "border", considering its conditional character from different sides.

Internal line

In June 2013, Russia has adopted amendments of the Criminal Code to increase a responsibility and criminalise "Insults of the sentiments of religious believers" including penalty of imprisonment for "Public actions that express an obvious disrespect of the Society committed for the purpose of insulting the religious feelings of believers" (art. 148 of the Criminal Code). However, there is no clear definition which describes those "abusive actions". That means that almost every activity can be attributed to such actions. At the same time, it is not officially permitted to insult the feelings of unbelievers.

Recently, the government has been actively donating taxpayers' money (both believers and non-believers) to the restoration of churches all over the country. Last year only in St. Petersburg more than a hundred churches were covered by scaffoldings for reconstruction works. (Statistics can be found at http://rostender.info/category/tendery-hram?active_filter=1&kladr155429=on)

And these shells (polyethylene wrapped scaffoldings) have inspired me: on the one hand, they have a quite utilitarian function of reducing pollution and creating the necessary conditions for refurbishment of the building; on the other hand, this cover completely changes the architectural appearance of the place, in many respects removing the religious burden.

I began to take pictures and collect such moments, then I've brought the images to an absurd end, so the scaffoldings appeared as resemble clothes (white shirts with elements of national patterns). It was such an utopia - an ideal world for unbelievers who want to protect their feelings. Apart from space theatricalisation, it would sacralise believers actions and make a movement from an external splendour to internal content. In addition, it would help the unbelievers enjoy architecture not burdened with religious propaganda.

P.S. The name of the project was due to my visit to the Vladimir Cathedral. I was looking for something weird and unexpected, for things dislodged from the religious context, then the church guard caught my eye - he was following the order and the text on his back said - Inner Line.

All photos I was made on film camera Zenit-ET in St. Petersburg.