

AMAZONKI

PARADEPLATZ 2 | TALSTRASSE 37 IN ZÜRICH, FROM JUNE 8th UNTIL SEPTEMBER 8th 2019

at

galerie gmurzynska

BULLET POINTS:

Since 1965 Galerie Gmurzynska has, over 3 generations, been exhibiting women artists of the 20th century

Krystyna Gmurzynska mounted in 1979 the first exhibition on “Women Artists of the Russian Avant-Garde”

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum hosted the exhibition “Amazons of the Avant-Garde” in 2000-2001 with Krystyna Gmurzynska as the only invited private lender in recognition of her “Women Artists of the Russian Avant-Garde” show

The State Russian Museum currently hosts an exhibition of the private collection of Krystyna Gmurzynska entitled “Graphic works by Russian Women Artists from the collection of Krystyna Gmurzynska”

“Amazonki” at both Galerie Gmurzynska Zurich locations will represent the work of the leading women of the Russian Avant-Garde from 1910 to 1930 as well as the work of Louise Nevelson from the 1970s

Galerie Gmurzynska is proud to present “**AMAZONKI**,” a selection of works by women artists of the Russian Avant-Garde. With this project, Galerie Gmurzynska consolidates one of its main programmatic lines, dedicated since its origins in 1965 to women artists – a pioneering approach for that time.

After putting together several solo shows on women artists, Krystyna Gmurzynska organized the acclaimed exhibition “Women Artists of the Russian Avant-Garde” in 1979, the first ever exhibition to concentrate on the women of the Russian Avant-Garde. More recently, the Malaga branch of the State Russian Museum hosted the well-received show “Graphic works by Russian Women Artists from the collection of Krystyna Gmurzynska,” still on view until September 2019.

The exhibition in Zurich features some of the most remarkable women artists of the Russian Avant-Garde such as **Maria and Xenia Ender, Natalia Goncharova, Liubov Popova, Olga Rozanova, Nadezhda Udaltsova, and Varvara Stepanova**. The selection of works includes both visual and applied forms of art, from graphic works and theater designs to decorative projects.

“AMAZONKI” is the Russian word for the mythological “Amazons,” and it was first applied to the female Russian Avant-Garde artists by the Cubo-futurist poet Benedikt Livshits, who described them as “real Amazons, Scythian riders.” An iconic exhibition, entitled “Amazons of the Avant-Garde” was held at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in 2000-2001, to which Krystyna Gmurzynska was invited as the only non-institutional private lender in recognition of her famed 1979 exhibition “Women Artists of the Russian Avant-Garde.”

The work of these pioneering women artists was extremely influential in the world of the Avant-Garde and was highly significant in defining modernism as a whole. There was a remarkable boom in women’s creativity in early-20th century Russia, where the rapid modernization of society changed the status of the female artist and marked the beginning of women’s integration into cultural areas that were formerly the preserve of men only. Never before in the history of Western art had women played such an important role in the formation of new art movements or the redefining and reconfiguration of cultural spaces.

Their influences can be clearly seen throughout the 20th Century. “AMAZONKI” thus continues with a separate exhibition of the preeminent female artist of Russian origin in the US: Louise Nevelson.

Though the “Amazons” were distinguished by their tremendous energy and a great force of will, they at no time constituted a single, uniform group formed through a common support of “feminist” ideas. Possessing a bright talent, each offered her own vision and direction to the development of Avant-Garde art, playing a vital role in larger artistic circles, where they were as individualistic, productive and exceptional as their male colleagues such as Kazimir Malevich, Mikhail Larionov and Alexander Rodchenko.