

Pro-Kremlin Activists Storm Moscow Art Exhibit

September 13, 2018



11.12 Gallery / Facebook

A fringe pro-Kremlin group has stormed a provocative artist's exhibit in central Moscow over what the activists said was its "anti-Russian" tone.

Members of the hyper-nationalist SERB activist collective said they "[violently disrupted](#)" artist Vasily Slonov's "Heavenly Jerusalem" exhibit a day after it opened its doors to the public at the Vinzavod gallery complex. SERB is known for recurring [attacks](#) on opposition-minded [exhibitions](#) and [figures](#).

Related article: [When Art Becomes the Victim of Politics \(Op-ed\)](#)

"Naturally, SERB couldn't stay away and disrupted this exhibition," its member, Gosha Tarasevich, [wrote](#) on the Vkontakte social media website Wednesday.

Tarasevich attached photos showing himself and fellow activists brandishing some of the

seized and vandalized artwork, including stuffed toys wearing a *vatnik* quilted jacket with cotton insulation.

“Insulting the president is banned. That’s not just our dumb whim, it’s a criminal count,” he wrote.

One of the art objects defaced by the activists at the exhibition is a side-by-side image of President Vladimir Putin and a skull.

Embed: <https://www.facebook.com/alex.sharov.9/posts/10215081582867306>

Moscow police are reportedly [investigating](#) the incident after Alex Sharov, the head of the 11.12 gallery where Slonov’s exhibit opened Tuesday, [accused](#) them of “inaction.”

Slonov is [known](#) for his often acid, satirical humor. In 2013, his “Welcome! Sochi 2014” posters caused a stir ahead of the Winter Olympics for featuring an Olympic mascot in a sex costume, barbed-wire Olympic rings and a vodka bottle on a pedestal. An exhibit in Perm featuring a fanged Stalin, a matryoshka-doll-shaped grenade and an ax chopping down birch trees with blood oozing out was closed after one local politician called them Russophobic.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2018/09/13/pro-kremlin-activists-storm-moscow-art-exhibit-a62868>