

## Press Release “Aleksandrs Karpovs – artist and warrior” Version 3

At 4 PM on Friday, June 12, 2014 the Mark Rothko art centers in Daugavpils Latvia is proud to invite you and your staff to the opening of a new art exhibit, showing the work of the Latvian-American, activist and artist Aleksandrs Karpovs (1953-1994). Enclosed is an official invitation to the opening of the exhibition for you and your colleagues. Aleksandrs Karpovs was born in America to Lucy Volonts, who had escaped and fled Latvia when both her parents were deported to Siberia.

The exhibition Opening date was chosen by the only survivor of the Karpov family, Konstantīns Karpovs, to honor their mother, born 100 years earlier on June 12 1914. During the opening ceremony at the Mark Rothko center Konstantin will present Aleksandrs' most important work 'the black hole' (image 4) as a gift for permanent display in Daugavpils. Receiving the print for the Local History and art Museum will be museum's director 'Ludmila Žilvinska. Also there to honor Lucy Volonts will be her godson John Streičs, the famous Latvian film director.

Aleksandrs first studied art in the U.S., but moved to Latvia in 1991 where he completed a masters in fine arts at the Latvian Academy of Arts in Riga on 1993. Aleksandrs was "an artist and a warrior" who refined his skills as a graphic artist using lithography and etching as a medium to show Latvian heritage and architectural beauty, while using his art as a tool to remind the world not to overlook the evils of totalitarian regimes. He worked as a lecturer at Rezekne art college until his life was abruptly cut short, on his birthday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1994.

The exhibition provides an international perspective, as Alexander worked during his American period depicting the problems faced by the oppressed in America, where he lived alongside the poor, the evils of war and the dangers of pollution (print #1 "La Dolce Vita" or "the Sweet Life"). The Latvian part of the exhibit is a very personal view of his Latvian heritage and architectural beauty (Print #1 and #3). In contrast, other works reveal the dark side of Soviet occupation, including terror and genocide. The lithograph "The Black Hole" (print #4) is one example, depicts the artist's grandparents, the Volonts family, herded onto cattle cars in Līvāni Latvia, the first major deportations during on 14th June 1941 when 15,424 Latvians were deported, only two days after his mother Lucy's birthday. Another work (not shown) is similar the first image in this case depicting the concurrent deportation from Riga of his grandfather's brother John Volonts (three times mayor of Daugavpils and then Latvia's Minister of Welfare) along with three of Aleksandrs' aunts. Five of the seven died in the camps.

The exhibition will be presented in three languages: Latvian, Russian and English, so that all people, regardless of origin, can remember both the evil darkness of their past and the lasting beauty that is Latvia.

For more information please check: [www.aleksandrsKarpovs.com](http://www.aleksandrsKarpovs.com) or contact Konstantīns Karpovs at [kkarpov1@gmail.com](mailto:kkarpov1@gmail.com) mobile +371 27088803. To learn more about the Mark Rothko art center in Daugavpils go to: [www.rothkocenter.com](http://www.rothkocenter.com)



1. La Dolce Vita (the sweet life). Aleksandrs Karpovs, 1990.



3. Mara of Latgalia. Rebirth II. (1992)



2. War Museum in Riga. Latvia in 1936. (1988)





4. "Deportation, Riga 14 June, 1941" (1991) Lithograph 64x78.





## *Godīgs Žurnālists*

LŪDZAM AR SAVU KLĀTBŪTNI  
PAGODINĀT  
IZSTĀDES ATKLĀŠANU

**2014. GADA 12. JŪNIJĀ**  
PLKST. 16:00

Marka Rotko mākslas centrā  
Mihaila ielā 3, Daugavpilī

[www.rothkocenter.com](http://www.rothkocenter.com)

[www.aleksandrskarpovs.com](http://www.aleksandrskarpovs.com).



## *Honorable Journalist*

PLEASE HONOR US WITH  
YOUR PRESENCE AT THE  
SHOW'S OPENING

**June 12, 2014**

Time 16:00

Mark Rothko Art Center  
3 Mihaila Street  
Daugavpils, Latvia

[www.rothkocenter.com](http://www.rothkocenter.com)

[www.aleksandrskarpovs.com](http://www.aleksandrskarpovs.com)