

ALEXANDER GRONSKY

Tallinn, Estonia, 1980

Lives and works in Riga, Latvia

In 1998 Gronsky began working as a professional photographer. Four years later, in 2003, he joined the agency Photographer.ru, based out of Moscow. His photographs have been published in OjodePez, Art+Auction, Intelligent Life, Esquire Russia, National Geographic, Afisha, Time, Newsweek, and Condé Nast Traveller. Alexander Gronsky travels over the miles of Eurasia—from the Gold Ring of middle Russia to the Far East and across from Yamal to Sochi. However, he confesses that the two countries he is most eager to photograph are Russia and China, because these are the places where people are as insignificant as pawns on the chessboard. Alexander Gronsky's photographs of Murmansk take us to a city where the night lasts two months in winter, an eerie place strung along the Arctic Circle. Time, as if suspended, has covered the city with a thick coat of snow. The colour of the sky fluctuates between deep blue, midnight blue and black. Electric light is always present—floodlights on the docks, luminary fairy lights—but doesn't warm the atmosphere for all that. To some, it looks cheerful as New Year's Eve; to others, desperate and lonely. Even the Christmas tree, crowned with the Soviet red star, seems to be left eternally in the yard, serving as a leading light to the lost inhabitants. The window light tends to warm up the freezing space, sending out an impulse of joy. This warm light provided by people living in these very blocks turns out to be ghostly and deceptive. Stuck on the window glass, the characters float in this 'endless night'. And nothing can disturb the *status quo*. Liza Fetissova

SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

2014

Yuka, Tsuruno Gallery, Tokyo

Act/Reenact, Polka Gallery, Paris, France

2013

Pastoral, Polka Gallery, Paris, France

2012

Mountains & Waters, Polka Gallery, Paris, France

2011

Pastoral, Photographer. Ru Gallery, Moscow, Russia

2010

The Edge, Aperture Foundation, New York, USA

Alexander Gronsky, FOAM Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2009

The Edge, Photographer. Ru Gallery, Moscow, Russia

2008

Background, Photographer. Ru Gallery, Moscow, Russia

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

2011

Crossroads, Australian Centre for Photography, Sidney, Australia

ivorypress

Backlight Photo Festival in Tampere, Finland
SI FEST, Savignano sul Rubicone, Italy

2010

Eastside Story, Polka Gallery, Paris, France

2009

Inside Outside, FotoWeekDC Festival, Washington D. C., USA

Minus Ideology, Art+Art Gallery, Moscow, Russia

AWARDS

2012

World Press Photo, third place in the category Daily Life

2011

Prix Photographique Ville de Levallois-Epson, France

2010

Foam Paul Huf Award

Silver Camera Grand Prix, Moscow, Russia

2009

Critical Mass Top 50

Aperture Portfolio Prize

Linhof Young Photographer Award

2008

Kandinsky Prize finalist, Moscow, Russia

2004

Finalist for the Ian Parry Award, United Kingdom

2003

Participant in the Joop Swart Masterclass, The Netherlands