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## DRAWING ON FANTASY

### Beyond the frame of architecture

By MIKE HOULAHAN

Wellingtonians will be coming face to face with the fanciful creations of Moscow artist/architects Alexander Brodsky and Ilya Utkin during the Festival of the Arts.

The pair are known internationally for their extraordinary plans for impossible cities, going beyond the boundaries of workable architecture.

Their sculpture Palazzo Nero and more than 40 of their etchings will be on display at the Wellington City Art Gallery. The duo will also create a sculpture in the Civic Square with help from students at Victoria University's School of Architecture.

"This will also be a kind of architectural thing, a tower made out of wood," Brodsky says. "This is the first time we will be working with students. We are not teaching them, but for them it will be educational, hopefully. I hope it will be interesting for them."

First the pair have to complete work on Palazzo Nero, the installation in the City Art Gallery. A massive work, it occupies all of the downstairs gallery.

"Here the only material we have used is wood, but there is also some black oil," Brodsky says.

"We began constructing it a week and a half ago, and I'm sure we will continue working on it until the opening of the exhibition [today]."

Palazzo Nero follows on in a similar vein from installations Brodsky and Utkin have assembled in America.

"We've done installations in

"We start with a number of drawings and then turn them into the sculpture. We try to make a kind of three dimensional drawing, a sculpture that looks like a drawing."

Alexander Brodsky

the US that were a little similar," Brodsky says.

"Not exactly like this one, but they also used black and white."

"We start with a number of drawings and then turn them into the sculpture. We try to make a kind of three dimensional drawing, a sculpture that looks like a drawing."

Palazzo Nero is a challenging work, but Brodsky believes it has universal appeal.

"I think that any person can understand it. Most of the etchings have explanations, and on the installation there will also be text."

"So if you read it you will definitely understand something. But anyone is free to understand it in any way they like."

The Artists: Brodsky and Utkin  
Where: City Art Gallery  
When: March 3 - May 3  
What: Palazzo Nero installation, plus more than 40 large-scale etchings. A second sculpture to be created in Civic Square



Building and exhibiting, Moscow artist-architects Ilya Utkin (front) and Alexander Brodsky.