

Ronald Feldman Fine Arts

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YOU MUST REMEMBER THIS

**The Martinchiks, Sveta Martinova and Igor Stepin
The Ho People and The People of Abbaja**

**David Cerny, Kits
Milena Dopitova, Don't Be Afraid to Take That Big Step**

March 5 – April 2, 1994

The Martinchiks, The Ho People and The People of Abbaja

In beautiful tableaux replete with canals and all the varieties of animals, vegetables and minerals, the viewer will discover the thirteen tribes of the Ho People who share the island of Aiishana with five other communities. The ethnology of the Ho People is chronicled through narratives and richly detailed sociological information. For example, the viewer can learn about the battle at Alti Kumanki, or about the Noli plant, the stem of which is cut up in round pieces and baked to make tasty pastils, or the tsem: "This is a rare animal. It is stupid but not to the extent that it is eaten. If it is tamed it will be capable of doing the hardest work." Also on view is the Ho People's tableau of the Abbaja people whom they discovered and visited in a distant galaxy.

The ethnologies may sound familiar to the viewer, but they are actually the creation of The Martinchiks - Sveta Martinova and Igor Stepin - who live in Odessa, The Ukraine. Any similarity between the chronicles of these peoples and the conditions currently existing in and between the former Republics of the Soviet Union is not purely coincidental.

David Cerny, Kits

Cerny, from Prague, the Czech Republic, will exhibit gigantic sculptures of small, snap-apart, molded plastic toy kits. Although the characters featured in these kits are not Barbie, Ken or G.I. Joe, they are familiar in their own ways: a rock star, an artist, Christ or on a more ominous note, a dead raped woman. Imagery chosen by Cerny is frequently symbol-laden - weaponry, money or the Trabant automobile. Cerny uses the loaded imagery as a springboard from which to launch his own spin which can frequently deflate or disarm the paradigmatic associations.

Milena Dopitova, Don't Be Afraid to Take That Big Step

Milena Dopitova, also from Prague, will exhibit *Don't Be Afraid to Take That Big Step*. The artist's juxtaposition of a large photographic image of herself as Joan of Arc with a miniature pool table covered in a light blue wool underlines gender conflict from the perspective of a contemporary woman who is forced to play many roles.

Dopitova is the focus of an exhibition at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston curated by Milena Kalinovska, entitled *Milena Dopitova In Context*, which runs through March 27, 1994. The artist is currently in residence at the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, Harvard University.

There will be an opening reception on Saturday, March 5th from 5 to 7 p.m. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information contact Susan Yung at (212)226-3232.