

# Universalmuseum Joanneum Press

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## Biographies Ilya & Emilia Kabakov

### **Ilya Kabakov, \*1933, Dnepropetrovsk**

Ilya Kabakov was born in Dnepropetrovsk in the former Soviet Union. He studied at the VA Surikov Art Academy in Moscow, began his career as an illustrator of children's books in the 1950s and was an important representative of "Moscow Conceptualism". His first exhibition took place in the Dina Vierny Gallery in Paris in 1985. In 1987 Ilya Kabakov spent six months in Graz on a working scholarship of the Graz Art Society, which led to an exhibition, curated by Peter Pakesch, in Graz Opera House. In 1988 he began to work with artist Emilia Kabakov (née Kanevsky); in 1992 the couple married.

### **Emilia Kabakov, \*1945, Dnepropetrovsk**

Emilia Kabakov was likewise born in Dnepropetrovsk and studied at the Music University of Irkutsk as well as Spanish philology at the University of Moscow. In 1973 she emigrated to Israel, then moved to New York in 1975 where she worked as a curator and art dealer.

Ilya and Emilia Kabakov's works have been shown in, among other places, the Museum of Modern Art (NY), Hirshhorn Museum (Washington DC), in the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, at the Documenta IX, at the Whitney Biennial 1997 and in the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg. In 1993 they represented Russia at the 45<sup>th</sup> Biennale in Venice with the joint installation titled *The Red Pavilion*.

The married artists have been awarded the Oskar-Kokoschka-Preis (Vienna, 2002) as well as the "Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres" medal (Paris, 1995). Ilya and Emilia Kabakov live and work in Long Island (US).