WEEK THREE

Tues. Oct. 18
7:00 PM
Allen Art Building (1937 Addition), Classroom 1

Born in Moscow in 1945, New York-based artist Grisha Bruskin figures prominently in the history of the non-conformist art movement in the Soviet Union and Russia. His work is represented in the permanent collections of MOMA, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum, the Jewish Museum of New York, the Tretyakov Gallery, the State Russian Museum, and many other institutions. In this lecture (the first of two) he will show and discuss various works that form part of his on-going “Soviet Project” and deal with the theme of “I and It” — the interrelationship/alienation between the individual and the collective, the citizen and the state.

Grisha Bruskin, *Past Imperfect* (An Artist’s Memories of a Soviet Childhood)
Weds. Oct. 19,
4:30 PM
West Lecture Hall (Science Center)

As an artist, Bruskin has always been interested in the relationship between text and image. He is also deeply concerned with the nature of individual and collective memory. In the last decade he has published four books of memoirs that form a vibrant textual and visual collage of his own past, his family’s past, and his Jewish roots; these books interpose Bruskin’s staccato reminiscences, family photographs, and his art. In his second lecture Bruskin will read and discuss passages from these memoirs, focusing in particular on his childhood in the Soviet Union. At once lyrical and ironic, Bruskin’s prose seems straightforward on the surface, yet is always full of surprises.

REMEMBERING COMMUNISM

The Poetics and Politics of Nostalgia

A Lecture and Film Series

Marking the Twentieth Anniversary of the Dissolution of the Soviet Union

SPONSORED BY

The Oberlin Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies

The Department of Russian Language, Literature, and Cultures

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The Department of Art

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Brochure Designed by Nadya Primak
REMEMBERING COMMUNISM

WEEK ONE

Screening of Goodbye Lenin!
Mon. Oct. 3 (German Unity Day!)
7:00 PM
Craig Auditorium (Science Center)

(Ukraine, 2003, comedy, 121 minutes).
Berlin, 1990: To protect his fragile and ardently Communist mother from a fatal shock after a long coma, a young man must keep her from learning that her beloved nation of East Germany as she knew it has disappeared.

Dubravka Ugresic
Nostalgia, Ostalgia, and the Memory Stick
Thurs. Oct. 6
7:00 PM
West Lecture Hall (Science Center)

Ugresic, a prominent novelist, short storywriter, essayist, and scholar, grew up in the former Yugoslavia. She left her native Croatia in 1993 after harsh media harassment for her strong anti-war and anti-nationalistic stances, and currently lives in the Netherlands. Funny, fearless, and sharp-tongued, she is recognized as one of contemporary Europe's most incisive and entertaining thinkers and public commentators. Her lecture will interrogate the contemporary perception of the past and its role in our modern obsessions, and will explore both how we become "archivists of our own lives" and whether the treatment of the past is different in post-communist countries.

Book-signing and reading with Dubravka Ugresic
Fri. Oct. 7
12:00 noon
Mindfair Books

Book-signing and reading with Dubravka Ugresic, celebrating the publication in English of her new collection of essays Karaoke Culture.

"Her essays glitter with witty and profound observations... a genuinely free-thinker, Ugresic's attachment to absurdity leads her down paths where other writers fear to tread."
—THE INDEPENDENT

WEEK TWO

Susanne Schädlich, December, Time and Again: The West, the Stasi, the Uncle, and Me
Tue. Oct. 11
7:00 PM
Craig Auditorium (Science Center)

Writer, journalist, and translator Susanne Schädlich will read from and discuss her book "December, Time and Again: The West, the Stasi, the Uncle, and Me."

Schädlich is the Max Kade German Writer-in-Residence for the fall semester of 2011 at Oberlin College. She was born in East Germany. Her family was forced to move to West Germany when she was twelve because her father, a writer, ran afoul of the regime. In the early 1990s, after reunification, she learned that her father's brother had worked for many years as an informant for the East German Secret Police. December, Time and Again is an exploration of the complicated histories of her family and of post-war Germany, and an autobiographical account of what it meant to come of age in exile, caught in a no man's land between two seemingly similar yet very different cultures.

Screening of My Perestroika
Thurs. Oct 13
7:00 PM
West Lecture Hall (Science Center)

(USA, 2010, documentary, 87 minutes).
Followed by a Panel Discussion (8:30-9:30) with Oberlin faculty who grew up under Communism in the Soviet Union, the Eastern bloc countries, and Yugoslavia.

MY PERESTROIKA follows five ordinary Russians living in extraordinary times—from their sheltered Soviet childhood, to the collapse of the Soviet Union during their teenage years, to the constantly shifting political landscape of post-Soviet Russia. Together, these childhood classmates paint a complex picture of the dreams and disillusionment of those raised behind the Iron Curtain.

"Robin Hessman's intimate and lovely documentary... follows five classmates who came of age right before the Iron Curtain fell – the children of a vanished world. Charting the ways that time, memory, and a rapidly changing society have affected their lives, it's playful, insightful, hypnotic, and, ultimately, superb." — Bilge Ebiri, New York Magazine

“The great hallmark of Hessman’s film is its intimacy; her subjects, ranging from husband and wife school teachers to a punk-turned-subway busker to an international businessman, casually tell their own stories over vodka and home movies, with no top-down narration or intervention.” — Karina Longworth, Village Voice/ LA Weekly