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Gosha Ostretsov · *Agony*

Acrylic and varnish on canvas, 2008

240cm (h) 175cm (w)

Estimate: £4,000 – £6,000

Generously donated by the Artist, Baibakov Art Projects, Moscow, and Paradise Row, London.

Gosha Ostretsov (Russia, b. 1967) graduated from the Theatre Art School of the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow in 1984 and lives and works in Russia. Ostretsov's practice comprises large-scale paintings, installations and interventions, and combines the old style comic book imagery that inspired Roy Lichtenstein with lewd language, graffiti, crude brushstrokes and spray paint.

In highly theatrical and uncomplicated scenarios where good and evil can still do battle, Ostretsov creates a dynamic, colliding world full of superheroic gestures and Gothic props. With heightened and simplified hyperbole, this is a world on the brink of disaster, full of terror, where Death reigns supreme. In a theatre populated by superhuman villains, heroes and iconic images of women in distress, Ostretsov offers us a contemporary version of Gothic drama.

