

# SOMETHING IS GOING ON HERE

ALEXANDER GRONSKY

NOVEMBER 11TH 2022 — JANUARY 11TH 2023

OPENING ON NOVEMBER 10TH FROM 6PM UNTIL 8.30PM

Moscow, Zyablikovo, 2012.  
© Alexander Gronsky, Courtesy Polka Gallery.



**15**  
**POLKA**

# SOMETHING IS GOING ON HERE

## ALEXANDER GRONSKY

NOVEMBER 11TH 2022 — JANUARY 11TH 2023

OPENING NOVEMBER 10TH FROM 6PM UNTIL 8.30PM



Dzerjinski, Moscow suburbs, february 2022.  
© Alexander Gronsky, Courtesy Polka Gallery.



© Alexander Gronsky, Courtesy Polka Gallery.

**Polka Gallery is pleased to announce Alexander Gronsky's exhibition, «Something Is Going On Here,» on view from November 11, 2022 to January 11, 2023.**

Since Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine began on February 24, Alexander Gronsky has been observing how his fellow citizens continue to live through the conflict. *«I take sides against the war as a human being. There is nothing heroic about it.»* The Russian photographer Alexander Gronsky, born in Tallinn, the Estonian capital, in 1980, is nevertheless doubly threatened: with prison because of his commitment and with being sent to the front because of the «partial mobilization» decreed by the leader of the Kremlin. Arrested during the commemoration of a former opponent of Putin, killed in late February 2015, Gronsky has already had to deal with the authorities in his country. But despite the risks, he chooses to stay in Russia to fight, in his own way, and to witness.

The exhibition «Something Is Going On Here» opens with an image of a pro-Kremlin demonstration in the heart of the Russian capital. To these screams of support, Alexander Gronsky responds with silent, refined, subtle and sometimes ironic paintings, in which Muscovites appear like extras in a play. As the bombs fall on Ukraine, the «landscape photographer», as he defines himself, turns his lens towards the suburbs of the city where he has lived for more than fifteen years. His images, presented for the first time in the Polka gallery exhibition and published in a book under the title [02-24-2022], show that the conflict does not disturb the daily life of Muscovites. Everything seems normal.

*«I don't like the obvious,»* says Gronsky. *«I am wary of binary views and the simplification of information.»* His work questions, without seeking to provide answers. Instead, he explores complexity through the richness of detail. *«It is not my role to be in direct opposition to the regime. My work is deliberately neutral. I prefer to keep it that way so that it doesn't turn into propaganda for anyone. And I do what I can to help.»*

Last April, he was the one who initiated the charity operation «Three Days for Ukraine», organized by Polka and in which 37 other artists participated. The amount of sales reached 110,000 euros and the entire net profit was donated to the Fondation de France to help Ukrainian families.

His commitment continues. Within this exhibition, a composition of 22 prints in 30x40 cm format is proposed in a special edition of 20 copies at the price of 250€. Part of the profits will be donated to the Fondation de France. *«Art is the most appropriate way to speak out,»* he summarizes.

## ALEXANDER GRONSKY

Born in 1980 in Tallinn, Estonia, Alexander Gronsky currently lives in Moscow. Alexander Gronsky's work focuses on landscapes. Abandoned, silent. The Estonian-born photographer delivers a contemporary reflection of the effects of the environment on people.

With the series *Less than one* (2008) and *The Edge* (2009), Alexander Gronsky makes a documentary work around a snowy Moscow, whose great expanses with hostile conditions constitute the theater of a story without drama, that of isolated and silent lives. In the photographer's static universe, each object, each subject is an element of the dehumanized landscape. A serious atmosphere that devours all intimacy to leave only room for solitude and meditation.

In 2010 and 2011, Alexander Gronsky went to China, to the edge of megalopolis (Shanghai, Chongqing or Shenzhen) where the agitation generates a disorder similar to chaos. The result is the series *Mountains & Waters* (2011) composed of large format diptychs in which the photographer espouses a Chinese conception of landscape, less descriptive than mental: the diptych allows to widen the field of vision and to respect the duality of Chinese thought, between full and empty, between matter and its absence, between mountain and water.

All these places that belong neither to Nature nor to Man form the common thread of Alexander Gronsky's contemplative work.

Since the beginning of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, on February 24, 2022, Alexander Gronsky is committed as a citizen against the war, but defends himself from being militant. He organizes sales of prints for the benefit of Ukrainians and continues his artistic work with seemingly normal photos of the lives of people around Moscow.



© Alexander Gronsky

**Personal Exhibitions (Selective List)**

- 2022** *Something Is Going On Here*, Polka Galerie, Paris, France
- 2020** *Repetition*, KVOST, Berlin, Allemagne
- 2019** *Repetition*, Polka Galerie, Paris, France
- 2017** *Schema*, Polka Galerie, Paris, France
- 2016** *Festival Les Boréales*, Bayeux, France
- 2014** *Pastoral*, Polka Galerie, Paris, France  
Reen&Act
- 2012** *Mountains & Waters*, Polka Galerie, Paris, France
- 2011** *Mountains & Waters*, Festival Photo Levallois, Levallois, France  
  
*The Edge and Background*, The 4<sup>th</sup> FotoArtFestival, Bielsko-Biała, Pologne  
  
*The Edge*, Fotografica Bogota-2011, Bogota, Colombie  
  
*The Edge*, Aperture Gallery, New York, Etats-Unis
- 2010** Foam Paul Huf Award 2010, Foam\_ Fotografiemuseum, Amsterdam, Pays-Bas
- 2009** *The Edge*, Photographer.ru Gallery, Moscou, Russie

The image size should not exceed one third of a page. For any other use, or for the use of other photographs, please contact directly (araffin@polkaimage.com). These permissions are valid only for the purpose of promoting the exhibition « Something Is Going On Here » by Alexander Gronsky, presented at Polka Gallery from November 11th, to January 11th 2022. These photographs may be used six months prior to the opening of the exhibition and until the end of the exhibition.

Press photos must be captioned and credited (copyright) as indicated in the iconography. Please send a copy of your article to :

**Press contact : Anais Raffin**  
**araffin@polkaimage.com**  
**+ 33 1 76 21 41 36**  
**Polka Galerie, Cour de Venise**  
**12, rue Saint-Gilles, 75003 Paris**



Zyablikovo, Moscow, 2012.  
 © Alexander Gronsky, Courtesy Polka Gallery.



Nekrasovka, Moscow suburbs, January 2022.  
 © Alexander Gronsky, Courtesy Polka Gallery.



Dzerjinski, Moscow suburbs, February 2022.  
 © Alexander Gronsky, Courtesy Polka Gallery.



© Alexander Gronsky, Courtesy Polka Gallery.