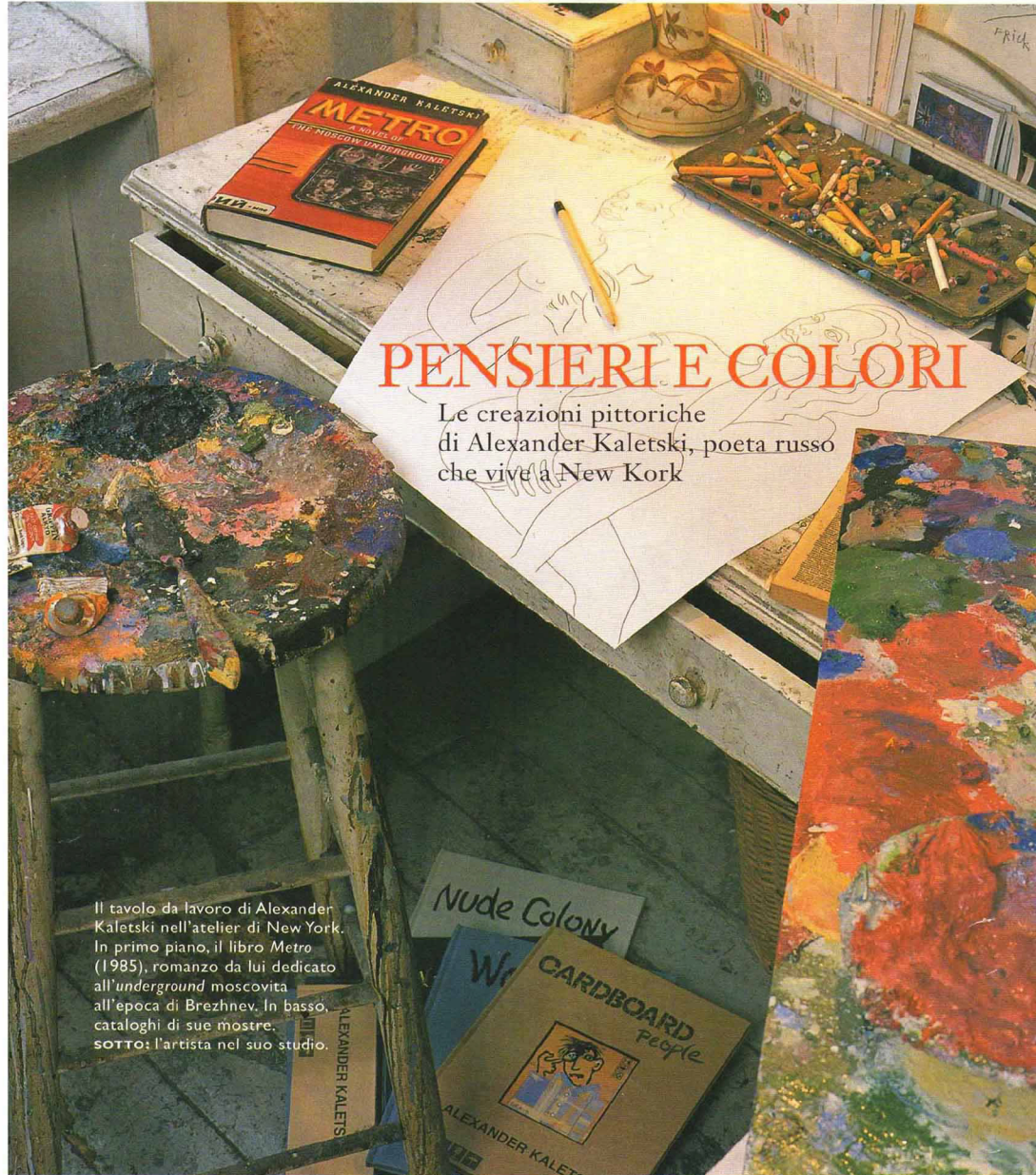


ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

AD INCONTRI D'ARTE



PENSIERE E COLORI

Le creazioni pittoriche
di Alexander Kaletski, poeta russo
che vive a New York

Il tavolo da lavoro di Alexander Kaletski nell'atelier di New York. In primo piano, il libro *Metro* (1985), romanzo da lui dedicato all'*underground* moscovita all'epoca di Brezhnev. In basso, cataloghi di sue mostre. SOTTO: l'artista nel suo studio.

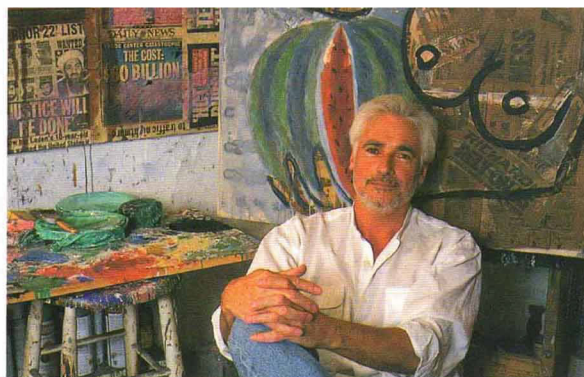
Nude Colony

W... CARDBOARD people

ALEXANDER KALETSKI

ALEXANDER KALETSKI

Fotografie di Gianni Francalisco e Marina Pizzelli



Alexander Kaletski, a Russian artist adopted by America, the country which gave him success. Kaletski came to New York from Soviet Russia in 1975, leaving behind a brilliant career as an actor, chosen because he was disappointed by "socialist realism", the only form of art encouraged in the Brezhnev era. He described passionately his life in Moscow underground in his novel *Metro*, against the backdrop of experiences as a songwriter, theatrical actor and painter inspired by the anti-communist revolt.

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Arriving in the United States with only a few pieces of clothing, some watercolors, a guitar and many ideas, but without any means, the artist began to paint on cardboards that he had found on the street, depicting characters that represent the various kinds of life, from the miserable to the rich.

The works within the *Cardboard People* exhibition feature characters interpreted with primitive simplicity: often distorted or oversized, they express comedy but never ridicule,

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IN THE THEATER OF LIFE

TO THE RIGHT:
Happy Birthday by Alexander Kaletski.

Oil on canvas

BELOW: Paintings in the artist's New York studio.



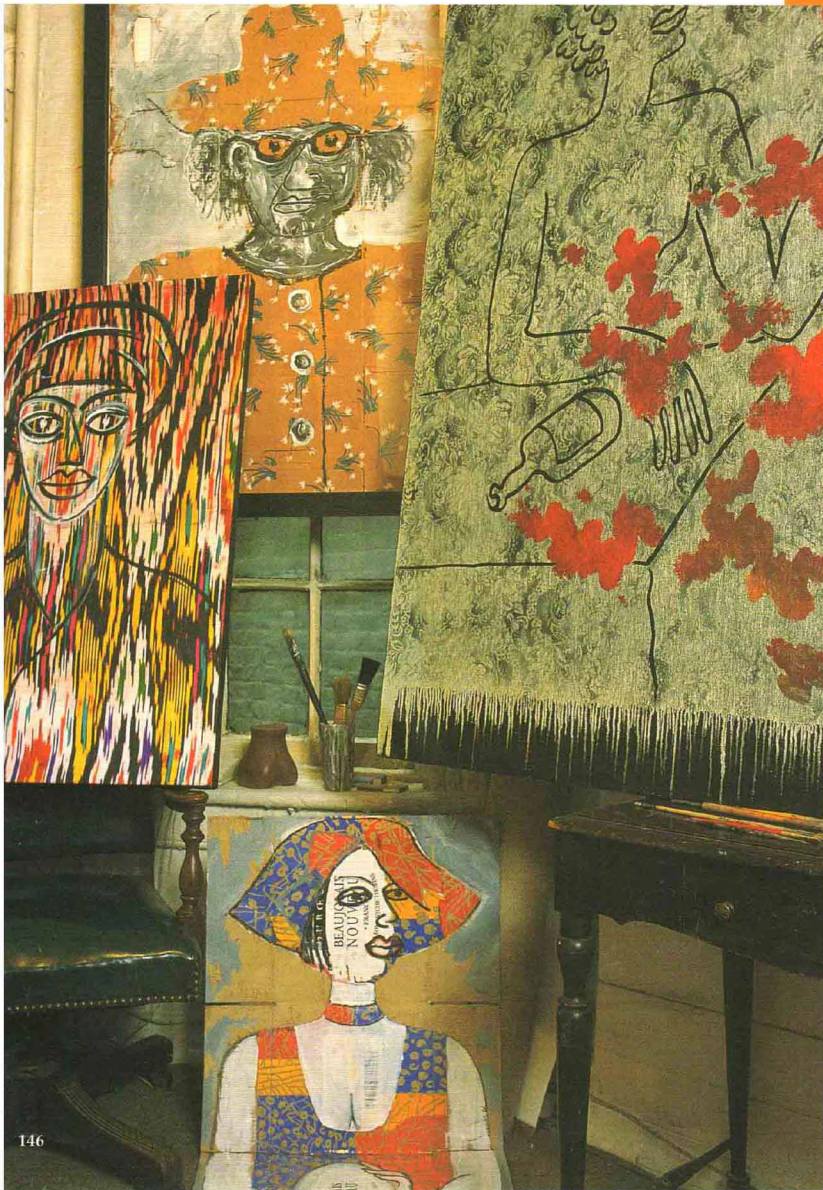
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DREAMS AND REALITY

The walls of Alexander Kaletski's studio, where the works summarize his pictorial thoughts.



and for clothing Kaletski recycles objects and uses scraps of fabric. Yellow fruit juice boxes transform into a dress in *Golden Delicious*, a Gucci shopping bag becomes an image of *Gucci Woman*, a gentleman in a smoking pose against a champagne box, the "Kleenex" logo appears polemically in the work *Civil War*.

Valerie Dillon, owner of Dillon Gallery, is the first to believe in him, fascinated by the content of his paintings. Still today his works continue to repeat the same message as his first paintings, by memory or *split personality*, oil designs illustrate the duality of human nature, in which incisive figures expressed with quick strokes emerge in a modern and minimalist style. In *Black or White* the gesso is lost in a patchwork of grey, black and white, in *Women in Love* the woman on her knees is immersed in the intense blue of the deep sea and appears to be swimming in the ocean.

Kaletski, who after a worldly life marked by success, has come to live in a studio of two rooms where he finds inspiration in the hard times, often returns to Russia where his book *Metro*, first published in America in 1985, was published in 1997 to great success, giving him the well-deserved revenge.

-Marina Pignatelli