

CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDY
CAS/MILLERCOMM2000

**Vitaly Komar
and Alexander
Melamid**

*Conceptual artists,
New York City*

September 23, 1999

Thursday 7:30 pm

Room 112, Gregory Hall

810 South Wright Street, Urbana

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Revolutionary Icons:
Washington and
Lenin in American
and Soviet Art**

Vitaly Komar and Alexander Melamid, possibly the best-known dissident artists of the postwar USSR, are among the world's most celebrated and iconoclastic artists today. Here they examine artistic images of the two most mythologized "founding fathers" of the US and the USSR, Washington and Lenin.

With their sharp eyes for irony and the absurd, Komar and Melamid raise fascinating issues of political iconography, popular representations, and national memory. For a sample of their work, visit "America's Most Wanted Paintings on the Web" (<http://www.diacenter.org/komar&melamid/mostwantedpaintings/>) which utilizes marketing research to examine the notions of "true" people's art in fourteen different countries.

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Image: Komar & Melamid, *Double Self-Portrait as Young Pioneers*, 1982-83 (from Nostalgic Socialist Realism series).

For background information,
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