

CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDY

CAS/MILLERCOMM99

**Ilya Kabakov**

*Internationally Acclaimed  
Installation Artist; George A.  
Miller Endowment Scholar*

**September 17, 1998**

Thursday 4:00 pm

Room 112, Gregory Hall

810 South Wright Street, Urbana

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## The Boat of My Life

### Ilya Kabakov Speaks about His Work

Ilya Kabakov, internationally celebrated artist of the nineties, will speak about his work and life, focusing on "The Boat of My Life."

Kabakov's paintings, stories, and installations are fantastic tales filled with irony and a profound sense of the absurd, in the tradition of Gogol's "Overcoat." It is as though the very extravagance of these fictions serves as a form of resistance to the gray surface of events.

Kabakov's installation work "The Boat of My Life" addresses his flight from the Nazis to Samark and at the age of seven with his parents, his international exile, the persecution of a "Jewish national" within postwar Russia, and his emigration to New York in the spring of 1998 at the beginning of the Cold War thaw.

"The Boat of My Life" will be on exhibit for the first time in the United States at the Krannert Art Museum, from September 18 through November 1.

This visit is funded in part by the Ford Foundation as part of a yearlong investigation, "Area Studies, Identity and the Arts." For more information about events in this series, please call International Programs and Studies at 333-1993.

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Background photo: D. James Dee

Inset photo: Emilia Kabakov

For background information, please consult <http://www.cas.uiuc.edu> or call the Miller Events Line, 333-1118.