

Maria Chuikova

THE STORY OF THE LEATHERETTE BAG WITH THE SHARDS OF THE BLUE VASE

In 1990, Anufriev and I made our first stop in the Western states of Germany on the occasion of the exhibition "Orthodox Suckings. Covers and Endings" at the Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, then headed by Jürgen Harten.

At the end of September, we visited S. Hänsgen and A. Monastyrski in Bochum who had prepared the action Link for S. Anufriev. They found the place for the action in the Department of Ancient Plants of the University's Botanical Garden on a bridge over the Lottenbach, which flows into the Ölbach, which flows into the Ruhr whose waters reach the Maas in Holland, where it joins the Rhine and then flows into the North Sea.

Even though the action used materials from the world of computer games (images, music, video recording of a game) and the title itself was borrowed from computer terminology, what struck me most were the natural events precisely coordinated with the timing of the action. A bright sunny September day at the beginning was during the action replaced by dramatic black clouds with pouring rain - but innocently and instantly cleared up after the smashing of the blue vase with a hammer. I had often read about such celestial phenomena accompanying the Collective Actions in the documentary volumes "Trips out the Town", such as the famous events during the action "Winch", in reality, however, I experienced them for the first time!

After the action, the shards of the blue vase were gathered in Sabine Hänsgen's black leatherette bag and given to Anufriev along with the accompanying documentation. Anufriev and I continued to travel for two months to various places in the West - for reasons not depending on us, we had to change apartments in Düsseldorf and Cologne several times, and we even visited Amsterdam and The Hague. An incredible amount of things accompanied us everywhere as well as this bag with the former vase. At the beginning of winter we returned to Moscow with an even larger load and the unchanged bag. There it found a place on the windowsill in our room on Udaltsov Street, where it remained for two years.

During one of the clean-ups in the apartment on Udaltsov Street in 1993, I suddenly decided to end the quiet life of the bag with the shards of the blue vase. The next morning I took it to Zagorsk (Sergiev Posad), where I gave it to the spring waters of the Konchura River, which flows into the Torgosha River, which then flows into the Vorya

River, which is an arm of the Klyazma River, which leads to the Oka and flows into the Volga, all the way to the Caspian Sea.

Moscow, July 8, 2020