

# SAN DONATO GROUP / KALININGRAD / RUSSIA

The **San Donato Group** is named after Anatol Demidov di San Donato (1813-1870), the owner of a mining and steel empire in the Urals and a promoter of art and science. During his time as ambassador in Italy, he bought the title "Prince of San Donato". Later he founded a city with his name in the Caucasus. The humorous projects of the artists' group critically address the power structures of oligarchies and corporate groups.

**Realized projects:**



## 1. «Trojan Zinger», Installation (wood, sound, light), 2008.

Within the framework of the "Monsters - People, Murders, Power Machines" project, CCA "Motorenhalle", Dresden, Germany.



The parallel worlds of common people and average citizens, oligarchs and multi-billionaires have no common meeting-points in real life. In Russia, they only meet in the image of a "Zinger" sewing machine. The former richest man in Russia is "repenting" on it in front of the authorities thus working off his "misdeeds".



# SAN DONATO GROUP/ Oleg

# Blyablyas/

# Alexey

# Chebykin/

# Evgeny

# Umansky/

# Irina

# Chesnokova

## 2. «Crown princess», object installation, 2009.

International competition  
"Tower Kronprinz: Second  
Advent", NCCA, Kaliningrad.

The project is an artistic interpretation of a story about a 19-th century sculpture which was found on the Kronprinz premises. On the Night of Museums those who come will observe an object installation resembling a monument on a pedestal. The object covered in white cloth is a symbol of a monument waiting for the official opening. A stander with the image of the Crown princess's sculpture restored by the artists will be placed next to the monument.



## 3. «Reflectum », object installation (neon, mirror), 2009

Festival "Contemporary Art in Traditional Museum",  
Fund "Pro Arte", The Anna Akhmatova Museum at  
The Fountain House, St.-Petersburg



A white neon, mirror installation in the archway reproduces a reversed poem by A. Akhmatova from a stele in the Sheremetyev Garden. The 3,5 m text made of neon tubes attached to the wall reflects in the ceiling mirror and gives the viewer an opportunity to read the text in the form of a real image. But you can



## 4. “The black tulip” (landscape installation, tulips, 50x60 m).

Project of the installation from tulips for the Nature Art Dren, the international symposium of sculpture, the Netherlands, 2009. (Unreleased)

The installation is a composition made of tulips planted in the open ground in wilderness.

A tulip of black and violet color was first bred in Harlem in 1637. The legend says that the citizens of Harlem wanted to have their own black tulip and asked for help to all the botanists of the world. The winner would be rewarded 10000 guildens paid in gold. Due to this tulip the world should have understood that the black color is no less beautiful than other colors and it should have become a symbol of beauty of people with black skin.

As the flowers are growing, the image of the flower installation will be transforming into a face of one of the most influential people on Earth today.

not see the whole text at once, only piece by piece while moving under the mirror. Use of modern advertising technologies makes classical poetry closer to slogan aesthetics and façade signs. Neon leads poems out of intimate poetical space; it draws public attention, as a usual street advertisement does. White, reserved and cold, metaphorically shows a place of poetry in the contemporary world.



## 5. “French buns” Installation (banner, print)

Contemporary Art in Traditional Museum Festival, Pro Arte Foundation, St-Petersburg, 2009. (Unreleased)

The project is dedicated to a current problem of preservation of monuments, which were massively attacked by business circles, aiming at their functional conversion.

SAN DONATO GROUP IS CURRENTLY PART OF THE GROUP EXHIBITION “A COMPLICATED RELATION, PART II” WITH IKOF/ INGVAR KAMPRAD ORDER FRIENDSHIP. THE EXHIBITION WILL LAST BETWEEN 17 SEP. TO 20 NOVEMBER //

