



Fotografia
Contemporânea

“How do peasants die?” were Tolstoy’s last words on November the 20th 1910, just before dying. Twenty years later, Stalin answered the question by letting 3 million peasants starve to death, at home, in Ukraine, in what still is a covered-up genocide.

Seventy years later, Alexandr Glyadyelov, Polish by birth but with an Ukrainian soul, is still fighting through his work as a photographer to show that nothing has changed. Oppression in the Great Russia goes on. Her people, hardened by the 1917 revolution, massacred during the Second World War, deprived of everything during the Cold War years, were finally given an illusion of freedom after the fall of the Wall. The wild capitalism of the post-Gorbachev era, the putinian tyranny and the fragmentation of the territory into provinces did not help these people, broken by daily life and alienated after two lost wars, in Afghanistan and in Chechenya.

Alexandr Glyadyelov belongs to this people. He chooses as subjects the abandoned children on the streets of Kiev, the drug addicts of Odessa and the forgotten people of the Siberian gulags of the 21st century. Sniffing glue as kids, injecting heroin later, stealing to survive and to overcome the wretched reality. Crime and punishment. The expiation of the inner evil. The eternal curse of the steppes. The mirage of the big city.

Alexandr Glyadyelov records, with humbleness and dignity, the Great Russian Tragedy.

He has already seen how peasants die...

Paulo Nozolino
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