

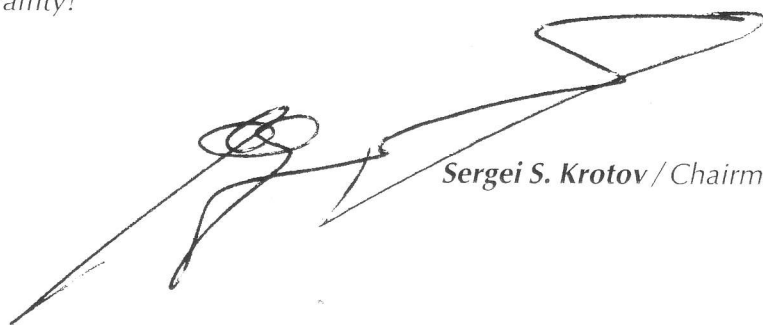
Dear Reader,

Welcome to our new journal! *geoGraffiti* is an interdisciplinary magazine, born in Russia, and full of original articles by authors of talent — both ancient and modern. We hope that among all this there will be something to interest you: in any case, you will not find anything else quite like it. Being of Russian origin, *geoGraffiti* will always contain Russian themes, but these are certainly not to be thought of as the exclusive domain of the journal. Our articles will not be restricted by any national or state boundaries. Russia is a means for us to look at the already familiar world in a unique way: Russia is the source of our world-view, but certainly not its limit. *geoGraffiti* has been conceived as a place for the meeting and exchange of new ideas, independently of where on the globe those ideas have arisen. We speak about Russia, but we believe — and suggest — that there are authors who share our spirit to be found everywhere. One task of *geoGraffiti* is to enable them to come forward, to reveal themselves.

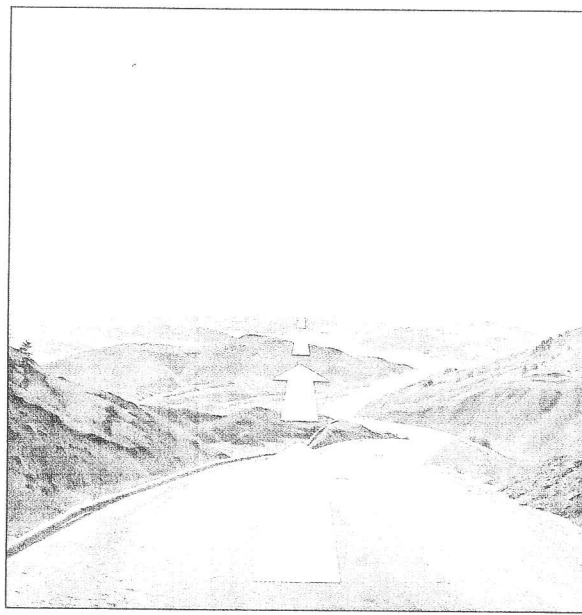
The pivotal point of our journal is the concept of space. However, in Russian, the word for space has shades of meaning not to be found in its English equivalent. The Russian concept of space unites the universally accepted meaning of one of the fundamental philosophical categories with the characteristically Russian romantic conceptions of expanse, distance, and breadth — of looking out onto and over horizons. Russia's geographical position, astride the border of Europe and Asia, has been a constant spur to an eternal search for her place in the world, for her identity; the different points of the earth come to possess a clearly different cultural meaning for her, and these spiritual realities become geographically located. Our whole culture, science, and art have inevitably become impregnated with the spirit of space, with comparisons and contrasts, with collections or assortments of different components. The Russian concept of space is a direct response to the specific Russian mentality, with its constant striving towards what is universal, towards representation in imagery, and to synthetic knowledge of the world. Indeed, in the last two centuries, Russia has been more concerned than ever with the synthesis of knowledge, and we can perceive the originality of her scientific and artistic consciousness in the wide number of interdisciplinary investigations which exist. It is precisely these cultural resources which we want to present to our readers — together with more specialized works coming from various spheres of interest — from geology to ideology. We are certain that the conception of space — the way it is perceived, experienced, and lived — can unite the artist with the geologist, the traveler with the film director, and the architect with the philosopher. Space is fertile ground for interdisciplinary cooperation, particularly in a modern world where distances are crossed with such ease.

Thanks to our partners, McDonald & Woodward Publishing Company, we have come to believe that *geoGraffiti* would appeal to readers in parts of the world other than Russia and we have therefore decided to publish it in English. Translating is always a difficult task, and one which carries responsibilities with it. But the mission of putting texts into another language is also a mission by means of which we can establish a mutual understanding between different cultures.

Welcome to *geoGraffiti*!

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and lines that form the name 'Sergei S. Krotov'.

Sergei S. Krotov / Chairman, Editorial Board



00 ROAD. ERIC BULATOV. COURTESY DANY KELLER.
GALERIE MÜNCHEN.

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