

# ROMAN ROAD

in collaboration with

**careva**

## PRESS RELEASE VISVALDIS ZIEDINS *OUT OF THE BOX*

Private View:

Friday 04 October 2019, 4 – 9 PM

Exhibition:

Saturday 05 October – Friday 18 October 2019

Opening Hours:

Wednesday – Friday, 10 AM – 6 PM

Saturday, 12 PM – 5 PM

and by appointment

*The words to express the feeling are lacking. Realistic painting, too, is feeble in this regard. It is the painting of feelings - abstract painting - that can help.*

- Visvaldis Ziedins, entry in diary no.4, 21 June 1962

Roman Road is very pleased to collaborate with careva gallery on *Out of the Box*, a solo show of works by late Latvian artist Visvaldis Ziedins. The exhibition presents one of the most prominent historic series of artworks by the rediscovered non-conformist artist.

Ziedins' oeuvre was only discovered recently, following his death in 2007; a substantial number of artworks, including paintings, drawings and objects, were found at his studio in Liepāja. He amassed a prolific collection, with works spanning five decades. *Out of the Box* focuses on artworks from Ziedins' *Marshmallow box* series, which he made during the Soviet period in Latvia in the 1970s-1980s.

The artist has since become a sensation in the Baltic art scene, exhibiting a missing link of the art history of that region. Even while being confined in terms of political freedom and access to art supplies, Ziedins had a wealth of ideas. His *Marshmallow box* series illustrates this richness of imagination and observational qualities, even when all artworks are made in a similar format.

In one of his diaries, Ziedins wrote: "My task in art is to set out new principles. The application and perfection of them, if they turn out to be useful, I will leave to the artists of the future" (entry in diary no.19, 29 July 1963). In a way, his works from the *Marshmallow box* series can be seen as three-dimensional experimentations of these principles, which could be re-examined today.

*Out of the Box* opens on Friday 04 October and will be on display at Roman Road until 18 October 2019.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Visvaldis Ziedins (1942-2007) lived and worked in Liepāja (USSR Latvia). From 1959 – 1964, he attended the Department of Decorative Design at Liepāja School of Applied Art. Recent posthumous solo exhibitions include: *Back to the future*, careva gallery, Riga (2019); *Visvaldis Ziedins. Travels in the Imagination*, American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center, Washington (2015); and *Visvaldis Ziediņš (1942–2007). Rewriting Latvian Art History*, Kumu Art Museum, Estonia (2013).

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Visvaldis Ziedins, *Kārbiņa "Uz komunismu"*, 1989.

Wooden box filled with USSR materials and badges, 41 x 30 x 5 cm, unique.

Courtesy of Zuzans Collection

## ABOUT CAREVA GALLERY

careva gallery was established in 2017 by Alise Careva in Riga (Latvia) to showcase and promote art of Baltic, Nordic and Eastern European artists. In spring of 2019, careva gallery moved to new premises in Kalku iela 24, Riga Old Town, attracting locals and tourists alike to the historic heart of the city. careva gallery organises bi-monthly solo shows at the gallery as well as partakes in international art fairs.

## ABOUT ROMAN ROAD

Roman Road was founded in 2013 by Marisa Bellani and initially began as a project space. The peculiarity of the premises has had a direct impact on the gallery's programme since its beginning. Tall and with a small footprint, the space led the director to challenge artists to employ the architectural elements in order to develop or restructure a body of work. Artists have frequently been asked to use the exhibition as a medium and have managed to transform the gallery room into a unique work of art. In 2014, the building underwent refurbishment to instate an additional private viewing space that gathers varied works by the gallery's represented artists, which are viewable by appointment. Since completing this renovation in 2015, Roman Road has established a qualitative programme, including participations at art fairs, and has seen its represented artists become internationally recognised by institutions and collectors.

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