



“Russia doesn’t know yet what kind of course it will choose. We are in the second transformation of our society in less than a century. We invent, we modify, every day we change something, but the future is still very unclear and foggy. We have not decided what kind of an identity we want.”

— Yevgeny Yevtushenko, poet

roberta fineberg

Glasnost: Moscow 1989-1990

Leader of the U.S.S.R. from 1985-1991, Mikhail Gorbachev promoted a policy of candidness in public discussions about the country’s political and historical problems. This cultural and social policy was termed glasnost, or openness.

Drawn to the Russian street scene, photographer Roberta Fineberg photographed Moscow over two years and developed the series Glasnost: Moscow 1989-1990. Her images convey stories of Muscovites in cafés, streets and homes—a landscape changed dramatically by the inner struggles and desires of the people and the political and social climate.

“Glasnost was a period in Russia’s recent history when hope and promise hung in the air and rapid changes in Moscow felt exciting,” Fineberg explained. “It seemed that the youth began to dream again and they were unafraid of the future. Memories of their desire for a better life will remain with me forever.”

Roberta Fineberg is an observer above all else. A photographer interested in people, societies, and cultures, her curiosity drives her art.

Glasnost: Moscow 1989-1990 is on exhibit October 15 – November 16, 2006

Roberta Fineberg’s photography has been exhibited at public spaces in New York City, Paris, and Moscow. Her work is in the collections of the Bibliothèque Nationale and Bibliothèque Marguerite Durand, both in Paris, France, and in private collections. Her images have appeared in national and international publications.

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