

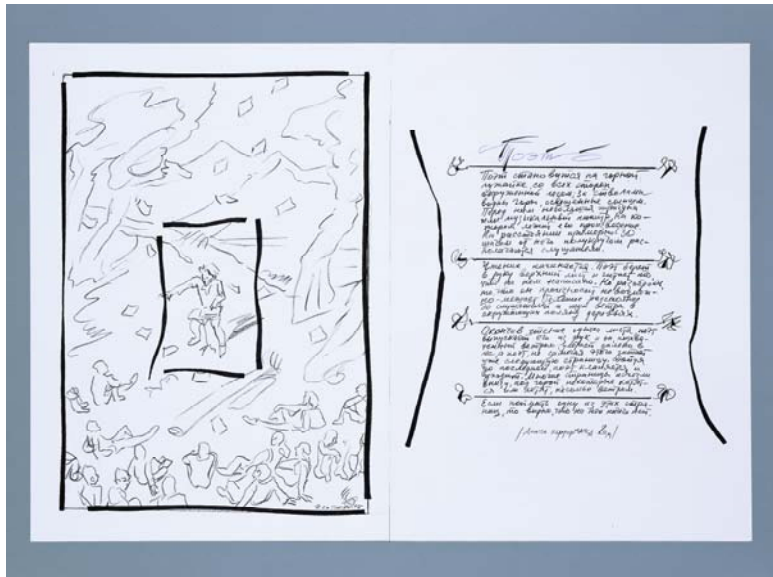
Ilya and Emilia Kabakov

The Poet, 2005

Drawing based upon a performance

31.5 x 39.5 x 1.5 inches (frame dimensions)

\$20,000



This work consists of two pieces of white matboard onto which a drawing and text have been executed in a mix of black and blue pencil, crayon and marker. The work is housed in a black-painted wooden frame, with a white and black mats and Plexiglas glazing.

The Poet, written by Ilya and Emilia Kabakov, was originally part of a performance. Cynthia Martin has translated it from the original Russian:

The poet stands in a mountain meadow surrounded on all sides by forest: the mountains, bathed in sunlight are visible behind the poet. In front of him is a small podium or music stand holding his work. The listeners form a semicircle at a distance of approximately thirty steps away from him.

The reading begins. The poet picks up the top page and begins to read aloud what is written. It is impossible to make out what he is reading—the problem is that great distance between him and the listeners and the noise of the wind in the surrounding meadow. Having finished reading one page, the poet simply drops it. The page is caught by the wind and flies far away into the woods. The poet doesn't notice this and is already reading the next page of the manuscript. Finishing the last page, the poet bows and leaves. Many pages have disappeared below the mountain, some are fluttering or flying about carried by the wind. If you were to pick up one of these pages, you would see that there is nothing at all on it.