

# L.A. WEEKLY

L.A. WEEKLY February 5-11, 1988

ART

## PICK OF THE WEEK



A work by Victor Tsoi.

This one is pure rock & roll. An L.A. kid hits Leningrad and meets these cool musicians who play for music's sake because you can't get paid unless you're an "official" Party musician. She brings home their tapes and makes a successful record. These half-dozen guys — names like Gustav Gurianov and Boris Grebenshikov (Russia's most famous rocker) — also make art. They drip and cut and videotape. They use Naugahyde sheets and plastic wrap and old magazines. The kid brings 'em paint and Yamahas. Joanna Stingray now has organized the first U.S. show of these self-named "New Painters," an exhibition entitled **Red Wave** benefiting Greenpeace. As we cheer *glasnost*, it's essential to unveil the creative spirit that prevails under the monolithic propaganda — fostered by both sides — of the Soviet Union. Here we see a celebration of hope, nationalism, planetary consciousness and humor in a group iconography: crosses, political figures, space ships, graffiti and tools. Large sheets painted on by several of the artists display the sort of pop idealism apparent in '60s San Francisco. Afghanistan is to them what Vietnam was to us, and such examples of the flourishing Soviet counterculture remind us of the social consequences of a malignant foreign policy. Solomon Gallery, 960 N. La Brea Ave., thru Feb. 6.

—K.D. Parks