

29

Veronica Smirnoff · *Monachina*

Tempera on wood, 2008

31cm (h) 27cm (w) 2.5cm (d)

Estimate: £2,000—£3,000

Generously donated by the Artist.



Veronica Smirnoff (Russia, b. 1979) studied at the Slade before graduating from the Royal Academy Schools in 2007 and lives and works in London and Moscow. Smirnoff embraces her Russian spiritual heritage by making beautifully rendered icon paintings, made with egg tempera on Russian birch boards treated with gesso using the ancient techniques still used today by the Russian Orthodox community.

Her work strongly references the aesthetic and allegorical tradition of the Russian miniatures, maintaining an intensely symbolic appearance, but is disrupted by the incorporation of imagery and stylistic elements from other sources such as early Renaissance painting, Bruegel, Bosch, Folk art, cartoons, the media and contemporary fashion. Her expert handling of her materials, and the strongly melancholic scenarios she creates, gives her work a powerful yet ambiguous meaning.

