

Title: Strange Bedfellows: Maksim Gorky and the World of Art in 1905.

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Fuelled by the growing popular discontent, the abortive revolution of 1905 gave rise to many unusual political and literary-artistic alliances within which individuals of different and often conflicting beliefs were united by the common objective of countering the tsarist regime. This paper examines one such encounter between Maksim Gorky and select artists belonging to St. Petersburg's World of Art collective – both parties taking an active part in producing throughout the winter of 1905 an anti-tsarist journal of political satire *Bugbear*. Discussing the publishing history of the journal as a background against which the union took place, this research seeks to challenge the traditional (Soviet) interpretation of this encounter arguing that the reception of Gorky by the aesthetes of the World of Art was not solely negative – something that ultimately led to their unusual cooperation within the framework of the satirical journal.

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