

The Cosmoscw Foundation announced the winners of its annual programs ahead of the 13th Charity Auction

On April 9, ahead of the 13th Charity Auction at the historic Eliseevsky (14 Tverskaya St.), owned by R4S, the Cosmoscw Foundation announced **the winners of its annual programs**. The charity evening will take place on April 13 with the support of its partners: **Sber Private Banking, R4S, Beluga, Tete de Cheval, and Edis**.

Anastasia Ivanova, Director of the Cosmoscw Foundation:

"Since its establishment in 2017, the Cosmoscw Foundation has been committed to the mission of systematically supporting contemporary art in Russia, including through its Artist of the Year, Museum of the Year, Institution of the Year, Curator of the Year, and other programs. The role of the annual charity auction goes far beyond raising funds for contemporary art projects. It is a vital tool for discovering new talent."

The winners of the 2026 Cosmoscw Foundation annual programs are: **Igor Samolet — Artist of the Year, the Tretyakov Gallery Branch in Samara — Museum of the Year, and the MIRA Creative Community (Suzdal) — Institution of the Year.**

Igor Samolet — Artist of the Year

The Cosmoscow Foundation's Artist of the Year program is aimed at funding new work by contemporary artists. An expert council, whose composition changes annually, nominates the artists they consider most outstanding. The final selection is made by the Cosmoscow Foundation's Board of Trustees. The 2026 panel of experts includes: Ekaterina Lapshina (collector and co-founder of the New Collectors foundation), Anzor Kankulov (journalist and head of the Fashion department at HSE University, editor-in-chief of Black Square magazine), Polina Bondareva (founder of the Masters art school and Masters.Dom space), Sofia Trotsenko (founder of the Winzavod Center for Contemporary Art), and Maria Kalinina (curator, researcher, and teacher who nominated the artists).

The winning artist will be given the opportunity to develop a new project with financial support from the Foundation. The project will be presented at the Cosmoscow fair, and the Artist of the Year's work will also form the basis for the issue's visual identity..

Igor Samolet is a Russian artist born in 1984 in Kotlas. He graduated from Syktyvkar State University with a degree in graphic design and the Rodchenko Moscow School of Photography and Multimedia. He works on the border between photography and installation.

The main theme of Igor Samolet's work is human relationships. He is interested not in the superficial reasons behind his subjects' actions, but in the true nature of their desires. Long-term work on his projects allows him to achieve the necessary level of truthfulness and openness. Samolet's lens focuses on contemporary human life, much of which today takes place online.

Igor Samolet, artist: *"There's good news and bad news, but this time I was lucky, I got some good news. It was pleasant and exciting, strange and joyful, sad and tired. But above all this, there was a clearly defined opportunity: the creation of a new work. What could be more interesting and stressful?"*

This? Or that? Or maybe that? I was going through installation sketches, even though I hadn't even been asked yet. But I got distracted, and Shipa ran out the door. I ran to look for him at the factory. Ks-ks-ksssssss...

I'd like to sincerely thank the expert council for their selection, the Cosmoscow Foundation team for their support, and the board of trustees for their attention.

Ks-ks-ksssssss... Shipa, where are you?"

The Tretyakov Gallery Branch in Samara — Museum of the Year

The program is based on collaboration with museum institutions: the Cosmospow Foundation supports the expansion of Russian institutions' collections with works by contemporary artists, the reorganization and modernization of existing collections, and the restoration of art objects. In addition, the nominated museum traditionally exhibits a special project at the fair.

The Tretyakov Gallery in Samara opened in 2024 in the restored Factory Kitchen building—a masterpiece of constructivism. Designed by architect Ekaterina Maximova and built in 1932, the Factory Kitchen's history has become an integral context for many of the gallery team's projects. Archival materials and exhibits from the Narpit era are integrated into an exhibition dedicated to the building and the stories of the people who worked there, as part of the "Factory Kitchen Museum" project. The discovery of a vegetable garden at the Factory Kitchen inspired the museum team to create the "Neighborhood Vegetable Garden" project, which united the local community around the topics of gardening, ecology, and a love of art.

The Tretyakov Gallery in Samara is involved in exhibition, educational, and publishing projects, runs an extensive educational program, and produces its own souvenirs. The museum features creative workshops, a reading room, a museum shop, a café, artist residencies, a recreation area, and public spaces.

In 2024, the Tretyakov Gallery in Samara launched the "Artist +" art residency program. Its concept is based on a creative dialogue between invited artists from across the country and Samara specialists ("Pluses") from the non-arts world. The program has received a wide response from the professional community, and Samara has become a meeting place for artists and local residents.

Mikhail Savchenko, Director of the Tretyakov Gallery Samara branch:

"We thank the Cosmospow art fair's expert council for such a prestigious award. It's an incredible honor. It's crucial that we now face a new challenge—to figure out how to present ourselves, our institution, our gallery, and Samara art at the fair. This is a fascinating story, one we're currently reflecting on and are very inspired by. Thank you for this opportunity."

The MIRA Creative Community (Suzdal) — Institution of the Year

The Cosmoscw Foundation's Board of Trustees selects the non-profit art institution of the year based on a list of nominees proposed by invited experts. The winner receives funding to implement a project at the fair. The 2026 experts are: Olga Profatilo (co-founder of the MYTH gallery), Dmitry Butkevich (art historian, art critic, and curator), Sergey Kovalevsky (artistic director of the Ploshad Mira Museum), Ekaterina and Andrey Terebenin (collectors), and Irina Gorlova (art historian and curator).

The MIRA Creative Community is a non-profit cultural institution and a center for contemporary art and cultural tourism in Suzdal. The project implements initiatives in the fields of performance arts and museum and exhibition activities, and supports creative associations of directors, actors, and artists through artist-in-residence programs.

MIRA builds a broad network of collaborations with artists, curators, directors, musicians, architects, designers, researchers, filmmakers, and scientists, creating a rich cultural program across several venues across the city.

MIRA creates a space in which art becomes part of everyday life and a way of understanding modernity, uniting the development of horizontal connections, the search for new artistic languages, and a caring attitude toward the inner, spiritual experience of a person.

Evgeniya Kazarnovskaya, CEO of the MIRA Creative Community:

"From the very beginning, the MIRA Creative Community was conceived as a vibrant space where art connects, supports, and helps us hear each other more deeply. This award is a sign that our chosen development strategy, which embraces openness, interdisciplinarity, and support for new artistic practices, is truly resonating with the professional community."

The 13th Charity Auction of the Cosmoscw Foundation for Contemporary Art will take place on **April 13, 2026**, at the Eliseevsky. The evening's concept Architectures of Dream explores how, in an era of growing divisions (between borders, ideologies, and the weight of historical processes), a radical form of solidarity born of the imagination manifests itself. The artists whose works will be featured as auction lots don't simply document the existing order of things—they construct their own universes, building these very Architectures of Dream.

This isn't about utopian dreams or escapism. It's a structure of hope, built with the sober recognition that survival requires more than just the ability to hold on.

In keeping with the event's theme, **R4S** presented an art object in the pre-auction exhibition space, created at the intersection of art and building, where geometric volumes and clean lines become a universal language. The installation's matte travertine surface conveys natural texture: for Moscow, this is a recognizable layer of a place's memory, but here, the stone serves as a neutral foundation for the new. Inside, there is no traditional display — views of Nikitsky 6 stand alongside the art objects as equal fragments of a single environment. The boundary between "outside" and "inside" disappears, and you cease to be an observer.

Azu Nwagbogu's curatorial concept and philosophy are evident in the details of the art object: the "structure of hope" in the way the cut allows light to pass through the blank wall; "happy survival" in the fragments that make no attempt to appear new; "refusal to accept the given as inevitable" in the choice of depth over facade. The object doesn't convince with words. It simply allows entry. Architecture is not for viewing from the outside, but for living within.

The Architectures of Dream exhibition will be open on April 11 and 12 from 12:00 to 8:00 PM at 14 Tverskaya Street with prior registration.

For more information and to participate in the 13th Cosmoscw Foundation Charity Auction, please email vip@cosmoscw.com.