

**WORKS BY THE RUSSIAN ARTIST ANDREY KUZKIN WILL BE DONATED TO THE
STATE TRETYAKOV GALLERY WITH THE SUPPORT OF COSMOSCOW
FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART**

The donation and opening of the exhibition will take place in the Halls n.21-22 of the New Tretyakov Gallery on September 21 at 7 pm. The exhibition will last till September 28, 2017.



From L to R: the main view of the *All Ahead of You* installation (2011), a shot from *Around the Circle* performance video documentation (2008).

Moscow – As part of the partnership between **Cosmoscow** and the **State Tretyakov Gallery** named Cosmoscow's Museum Partner for 2017, a special acquisition of works by Russian artist **Andrey Kuzkin** to the museum's permanent collection was announced at the fair's anniversary 5th edition opening press conference on September 7, 2017. The donation supported by Foundation for Contemporary Art is aimed at contributing to the development of contemporary art in Russia and expansion of the Tretyakov Gallery's collection. Launched in 2017, the Foundation is an institution combining fair's non-commercial initiatives, undertaken in recent years. The list of donated works include: *All Ahead of You* installation together with corresponding video documentation (2011); *Around the Circle* performance video documentation (2008), the Right to Life documentation of 2006-2015 actions, performances and projects. The donation and opening of the exhibition of all works will take place in the Halls n.21-22 of the New Tretyakov Gallery on September 21 at 7pm. The exhibition will last till September 28, 2017 in parallel with Moscow International Biennale of Contemporary Art.

"I am very glad that the work of the Foundation starts with such an epoch-making event as the replenishment of the Tretyakov Gallery's collection with the works of contemporary artist. We can say that this is a new page in the history of the institutionalization of Russian contemporary art. This process will largely shape the idea of the history of art in the minds of future generations," says **Margarita Pushkina**, Founding Director of Cosmoscow International Contemporary Art Fair and Founder of Cosmoscow Foundation for Contemporary Art.

“The *Right to Life* project explores the possibility of preserving memory and handing it over to future generations. This function is also performed by museums. I am grateful to the Cosmospow fair and personally to Margarita Pushkina and Zelfira Tregulova for making it possible for my works to be included in the collection of the Tretyakov Gallery. It is very important to me,” says **Andrey Kuzkin**.

The first project of Andrey Kuzkin that won attention of the art scene and expert community was the *Around the Circle* performance (2008) that was presented as a part of the First Moscow International Biennale for Young Art. For more than four hours the artist who was bound with a rope to the center of a swimming pool full with grout cement wandered around the circle. According to Kuzkin, a helpless fight with stiffening cement serves as a trope for the “current life model of a man”. A film, based on the performance’s video documentation, was cut and shown many times at different exhibition projects in Russia and abroad.

In 2011 Andrey Kuzkin created a project which not only became one of the most radical expressions in contemporary art but also demonstrated a principled position of the author, whose works, one and all, raise questions of blurring boundaries between life and arts. The *All Ahead of You* project was conceived and performed as a symbolic suicide of a young artist who has buried all his earlier works as well as his own property in 58 metal boxes. Due to the conditions of the project, all the content of the boxes can be disclosed 29 years after.

In 2015 Andrey Kuzkin created the *Right to Life* project – 70 tablets with abstracts of text and photos that represent autobiography of the artist, expressed in the form of a poor narration. Every piece of text starts with the words: “One man...”. The collection of tablets forms a block of crucial events in the artistic biography of Kuzkin. 10 tablets from this series joined the collection of Centre Pompidou.

The list of donated works:

1. Title: *All Ahead of You*. Year: 2011. External material: steel. Internal material: personal belongings and works of the artist. The box is closed. The day of opening: not earlier than September 15, 2040 (by the artist’s request). (Installation. 3 objects of the 59) Size: 42 x 46 x 68 cm, 55 x 55 x 58 cm, 38 x 65 x 46 cm.
2. Title: *All Ahead of You* video documentation. Year: 2011. Description: a video file in Russian with English subtitles, time sheet: 12:52, format: mp4. Edition: edition 4+2AP (copy №1).
3. Title: *Around the Circle*. Year: 2008. Description: performance video documentation. Time: 40:35, format: mp4. Edition 4+2AP (the author’s copy №2 provided).
4. Title: *Right to Life* (series of 70 tablets). Year: 2015. Description: 2006-2015 actions, performances and projects documentation. Size: 59, 4 x 42 x 3 sm. Media: medium density fiber board, enamel, color printing, lacquer.

Contacts for Press Inquiries:

Elena Kurbatskaya | kurbatskaya@cosmospow.com | +79167989987
pr@tretjakov.ru | +74959533375

Notes to editors:

Cosmospow International Contemporary Art Fair

Cosmospow International Contemporary Art Fair, aimed at bringing together both Russian and international collectors, galleries and artists, was launched by Russian collector and philanthropist Margarita Pushkina in 2010. Today Cosmospow is the only international art fair in Russia and the CIS. Since 2014 it is an annual September event

with its own place in an international art calendar. The latest edition of the fair took place at the Gostiny Dvor on September 8-10, 2017 representing 54 Russian and international galleries and welcoming nearly 19,200 guests. Three thousand people visited Fair's collectors' preview.

Cosmoscow Foundation for Contemporary Art

Celebrating its 5th anniversary, Cosmoscow decided to combine its non-commercial initiatives, undertaken in recent years, integrating them into a separate institution – Cosmoscow Foundation for Contemporary Art. The Foundation is based on Cosmoscow experience and expertise, accumulated over the years. The main objective of the Foundation is the systematic support of contemporary art in Russia, its integration into the international context, the promotion of young authors, and the development of philanthropy in Russia. The Foundation holds contests, delivers its own projects, and also provides direct funding to support unique cultural initiatives. The Foundation carries out activities in the following areas: education; execution (financial support) of certain projects and cultural initiatives, selected on both contest and non-contest basis; purchase of contemporary art works and their donation to museum collections.

The State Tretyakov Gallery

The State Tretyakov Gallery, an internationally-acclaimed museum of vast renown, is also a major scientific, cultural, educational, and research complex in Russia. Ever since 1856, when merchant and museum benefactor Pavel Tretyakov first began acquiring his private collection, the Gallery has evolved over a century of war, transportation, renovation, and expansion, into the largest archive of Russian art in the world today. With over 180,000 paintings, sculptures, relics, and graphic works housed among several illustrious buildings across Moscow, the Gallery's collection not only remains the ultimate historical resource for Russian art, but also stands testament to the changing tides of Russian life itself. www.tretyakovgallery.ru