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Press contact:

Elena Kurbatskaya

+79167989987

[kurbatskaya@cosmoscow.com](mailto:kurbatskaya@cosmoscow.com)

## **COSMOSCOW 2019 MUSEUM OF THE YEAR**

**THE MOSCOW MUSEUM OF MODERN ART WILL PRESENT AT THE FAIR A PROJECT CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF MMOMA, WILL CONDUCT AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS AND WILL HOLD AN ARTIST TALK WITH MICHELANGELO PISTOLETTO**

MMOMA's booth at the Cosmoscow International Fair is the prologue to an anniversary thematic exhibition titled MMOMA 99/19, which will open in December 2019 at the museum's venue at 25 Petrovka Street. The exhibition, dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the first state museum of contemporary art in Russia, will bring together 20 professionals from various fields of science and culture – from film directors and musicians to doctors, scientists and restaurateurs – who under the guidance of the museum's curators will offer their personal perspectives on the museum's extensive collection of Russian art. Temporary thematic shows displaying artworks from the museum's collection are the hallmark of MMOMA's exhibition program. The exhibitions of selected works from the collection have been held regularly since 2009. While some of the exhibitions were curated by the museum's research department staff, others were developed by invited experts. To date, eight large-scale exhibition projects have been held as part this program, with MMOMA 99/19, the ninth exhibition in a series, the museum endeavors to expand its interdisciplinary practices.

MMOMA's booth at the fair will be designed by Olga Treyvas (FORM Bureau) who is one of the guest curators of MMOMA 99/19. For 20 years, she has collaborated with the museum on several occasions and this time once again will be part of the museum's exhibition design team. As part of the fair, Olga will present her perspective on MMOMA's history and provide a sneak peek at the design of the future exhibition. MMOMA's booth will feature the first work purchased by the museum and the most recent addition to its collection. By choosing these two works, a piece by Georgy Stenberg and Uta Bekaia's "The Blind King", Treyvas offers a glimpse of the museum's program for its lifetime. The museum director's chair installed in the center of the chapel invites the visitor to engage in a one-to-one conversation with the artworks and take an insider's look at the history of the museum.

The kids program presented at the fair will become the basis for the unique MMOMA KIDS TEEN FAMILY course, which will be launched in MMOMA's Education Center this fall. Contemporary artists will act as teachers and share their skills with the museum's visitors,

regardless of their age. The first artist to take part in the program is Rostan Tavasiev. The course will be a continuation of the MMOMA KIDS educational initiatives that have already gained public recognition through their practices aimed to help students increase self-awareness through creativity.

An artist talk with Michelangelo Pistoletto will take place as part of the public program of the fair. During the talk the participants will discuss the artist's work, the Arte Povera movement, as well as the Cittadellarte residency program and social responsibility of art. A large-scale exhibition by Michelangelo Pistoletto will be held at MMOMA's venue at 25 Petrovka Street in May 2020. The program also features a public talk about the Residency Unlimited project organized in New York. The Moscow Museum of Modern Art is the first Russian institution invited to participate in the project. This year, MMOMA's expert committee has selected the participants of the residency program in the following categories: "gallery owner" (Sergey Gushchin), "artist" (Yan Ginsburg), and "curator" (Elena Ishchenko). The collaboration between MMOMA and Residency Unlimited is part of the museum's program of the support of young artists.

This year, MMOMA together with the Cosmoscw International Contemporary Art Fair will place emphasis on expanding the museum's collection. As part of the public procurement program some works for the museum's collection will be purchased through the galleries participating in the Cosmoscw fair. In addition, as part of the annual program of the Cosmoscw Foundation for the Support of Contemporary Art aimed at acquiring contemporary artists' works for museums, some new pieces by contemporary artists represented by the galleries participating in the fair will enter MMOMA's collection. In addition, as a result of the Off White charity auction held at the MMOMA Education Center in early summer, Uta Bekaia's work "The Blind King" has been donated to the museum

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#### **Notes to editors:**

**Cosmoscw International Contemporary Art Fair** announces the highlights of this year's commercial and not-for-profit programmes. The seventh Cosmoscw Fair is taking place at Moscow's Gostiny Dvor on September 6–8 with the Privilege and VIP Preview on September 5, supported by its long-standing partners: Main Partner **Qatar Airways**, Strategic Partner **Credit Suisse**, Automobile Partner **Audi**, Official Partner **Ruinart**, Jewelry partner **Mercury**, Beauty partner **La Prairie** and Official Hotel **St. Regis Moscow Nikolskaya**.