September 16, 2020

**THE 8TH COSMOSCOW INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ART FAIR TOOK PLACE IN MOSCOW**

* **62 galleries from Russia, Germany, France, Estonia, Poland, Georgia, Austria, and Italy presented more than 300 artists**
* **Online Cosmoscow: 10 more galleries from the UK, Mexico, Belgium, Denmark, Norway and Russia participated online**
* **New section Made in Moscow launched together the Moscow Department of Entrepreneurship and Innovative Development to support Moscow galleries**
* **Art projects commissioned for the Fair with the support of the Cosmoscow Foundation and partners**
* **Rich educational program Cosmoscow Talks with the participation of international experts who took part online**
* **Essential talks and discussions as part of the Media Forum and the Business Program**
* **blazar, a sattelite art fair was held simultaneously for the first time**

The 8th Cosmoscow International Contemporary Art Fair took place on 11–13 September 2020 at Moscow Gostiny Dvor with the support of Program Partner Cultural Creative Agency, Official Partner Ruinart, Automobile Partner Audi, and partners: Vremena Goda galleries, Hutton Development, Ultima Yandex Go and the hotel St. Regis Moscow Nikolskaya. This year, **62 galleries** from Russia, Germany, France, Estonia, Poland, Georgia, Austria and Italy participated in the Fair presenting more than **300 artists**.

The Fair was attended by **9,600 people**, the maximum possible number of visitors taking into account the restrictions of the Russian Agency for Health and Consumer Rights. The visit was carried out in sessions with a fixed entry time; the quota for the number of people for each session was 600 people. The Online Cosmoscow platform with an expanded list of participating galleries was visited by more than **11,500 unique users**; the number of views was close to **200,000**.

Following the Fair's Preview (September 10), international and Russian galleries **announced successful sales**. Almost all the works were immediately purchased at the booths of RuArts Gallery, Marina Gisich Gallery and MYTH Gallery. DiDi Gallery (St. Petersburg), pop/off/art gallery (Moscow) showed a high level of sales on the first day. A large number of works of art went to private collections from the booths of XL Gallery (Moscow), a-s-t-r-a gallery (Moscow), H.L.A.M. (Voronezh), ASKERI GALLERY (Moscow), Osnova Gallery (Moscow), LH Art Consultancy (Moscow), as well as JART Gallery which won the Cosmoscow 2020 Stand Prize.

**International participants** were also pleased with the results of the Fair. Young gallery Window Project (Tbilisi) became one of the sales leaders on the first day. One of the works of Peres Projects (Berlin) was acquired for an impressive amount, while HORS-CADRE (Paris) and Galerie Emanuel Layr (Vienna/Rome) sold several works each in the price range from €5,000 to €10,000. Co-founder of Temnikova & Kasela (Tallinn) Olga Temnikova (member of the Fair's Expert Committee) was one of the few international guests to visit Moscow in person.

Online Cosmoscow also featured Almine Rech (Belgium), Galería Karen Huber (Mexico), LOCUS (Norway), NK Gallery (Russia / Belgium), SIRIN Copenhagen (Denmark), TIM VAN LAERE GALLERY (Belgium), White Space Gallery (UK) and Russian galleries Tirage Unique, NAMEGALLERY and Pink Pong Gallery.

The price range of works at the Fair this year ranged **from €15 to €182,000**. Thanks to Online Cosmoscow, all prices are available on the website of the online fair, and a convenient filter system allows you to sort artworks into different categories. The online fair run through September 15 with general sales statistics for Cosmoscow 2020 to be announced afterwards.

The Fair introduced a new section, **Made in Moscow**, with the support of the Moscow Department of Entrepreneurship and Innovative Development and Creative Industries Agency. The section provided significant support to Moscow galleries which were able to present the work of their artists for free. Almost all of the works were sold, as a result of which there was a rotation of works at the exhibition "20" curated by Alexey Maslyaev (MMOMA).

Visitors of the Fair were able to learn more about all the booths of the Cosmoscow participating galleries, as well as about art projects commissioned by the Cosmoscow Foundation and partners by downloading a **free-of-charge audio guide**. It was created together with the project LitRed: Reader and the largest book service by subscription MyBook and was available on the days of the offline fair.

**COSMOSCOW 2020 SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Among Cosmoscow special projects were the works by three winners of the **[Turbulence](https://turbulence.me/)** competition which was held by the Fair's Program Partner, the **Cultural Creative Agency (CCA)** with the support of the Embassy of the State of Qatar to the Russian Federation. The new video installation Toothless Resistance by **Polina Kanis** has created an enveloping and disturbing system of images and sound. The scene of the action was the room of the geographer and sociologist Pyotr Kropotkin who in his work Mutual Aid as a Factor of Evolution argued that assistance, not the struggle for existence, is a key factor in the development of life. The title of the Lavrussia NRG installation by **Alexei Taruts** played with a hypothetical supercontinent which outlines were presented at the Fair in the form of a pool. An important part of the project was the performative charging of water by repeating the phrase “it was, it is, and it will always be so” which acquired a specific flavor during the pandemic crisis. In the Gallery Balcony project **Ekaterina Muromtseva** reproduced a self-organized balcony gallery in her apartment in Zagreb, where she was locked due to a lockdown. The artist acted as both a gallery owner and a curator, inviting her colleagues – Evgenia Eremina, Margo Ovcharenko, Alexander Anufriev and Varvara Grankova to participate.

The Fair featured a special **Cosmoscow x Vremena Goda Kids Zone** with creative workshops for children from 4 years old, which were held by the K1ds Art Club studio. The creative laboratory invited the youngest visitors to the fair to try themselves in graphics and painting, architectural composition and sculpture. There also was a presentation of a capsule collection of clothes created with the participation of famous contemporary artists and their children: **Irina Korina** with her daughter Antonina (14 years old), **Alexandra Paperno** with her sons Peter (9 years old) and Vasily (7 years old), **Ivan Gorshkov** with his son Stepan (4 years). The curator of the project Alexey Maslyaev suggested Metamorphoses as the main theme for children's drawings. After the end of Cosmoscow, the capsule will go on sale at Vremena Goda Kids department store. A percentage of the sales of the collection will be donated to the Cosmoscow Foundation for Contemporary Art.

This year, **Recycle Group** and **Ultima Yandex Go** presented a specially commissioned project, The Garden of Diverging Stones. This installation is a dynamic reflection on place and time. Life is accelerating, the amount of information is growing, constants are changing, and everything is in motion. And even stones abandon their homes leaving a whimsical pattern on the sand. The installation consists of a square box with a side of 7.5 meters located on the floor.

The side-fenced inner space of the box is filled with five tons of quartz sand. Nine large stones made of ultra-lightweight polymers move slowly across the sand. The paths of the stones intersect, thus the traces they leave are added to a certain pattern.

Within the **Hutton Development** space, a lighting installation by artist **Katya Ost** inspired by the philosophy of the unique Lumin club house was presented. Her work From Reverse to New is a meditative session exploring the everyday anxiety of a city dweller and the digital tools to overcome it. With the help of color auras built from complex gradients, it guides the viewer from anxiety to serenity, reminding that the radiance comes from within. The work consists of several acts: a static light object with a screen with generative content and a live audiovisual performance with musician Atoraye.

This October, as part of the **BURO. ИEW COOГ** cross-cultural festival hosted by Buro 24/7, the Cosmoscow Foundation will open the exhibition project “20:20. Time has stood still" at the Moscow Museum of Modern Art. It explores new rituals and habits that appeared or exacerbated in 2020 during the coronavirus pandemic and general social instability. As a preview of the exhibition, St. Petersburg artist **Kirill Makarov** presented his new project The Sun Has a Musky Taste in a Salty Sand created in collaboration with the poet and psychoanalyst Ksenia Kononenko.

Traditionally, Cosmoscow VIP lounge featured an artwork from a private collection. This year, it was the project Mare Mediterraneum (2018) by the **AES+F** group from the collection of Andrey Cheglakov. A series of porcelain sculptures dedicated to the Mediterranean, the territory where modern human civilization was born. The work was created with the support of the Noirmontartproduction Foundation of the famous French gallerist and producer Jérôme de Noirmont, and has previously been shown at several exhibitions in Europe (Manifesto 12 in Palermo, SENDA gallery in Barcelona, ARCO & Art Brussels fair).

This year, Collector's Eye thematic exhibition was presented by a special project **Artist's Choice**. 2020 is a year of changes, instability, variable rules of the game in almost all areas of our life. One of the most significant events for the art market at this time was the appearance of Facebook group **The Ball and the Cross** – a platform created by Maxim Boxer for the mutual support of artists and collectors. The second participant of the project was **Fineartway**, one of the biggest Russian companies for the transportation of artworks. During the quarantine, instead of their usual work they were engaged in providing assistance to Russian museums. Within the framework of the project, the works of the members of The Ball and the Cross group were presented in a special Fineartway truck for art transportation.

**PROJECTS OF THE COSMOSCOW FOUNDATION**

On Friday, September 11, the **7th Off white charity auction** was held as part of the Cosmoscow 2020 fair in partnership with the Embassy of the State of Qatar to the Russian Federation, supported by the Ruinart champagne house and strategic partner v confession agency. Most of the proceeds amounting to **€113,900** will benefit the Cosmoscow Foundation. Proceeds from the sale of the work by artist Ramin Nafikov (participant of the 2nd Garage Triennial will benefit the Endowment Fund of the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Cosmoscow 2020 Museum of the Year. The evening was hosted by Olga Shelest and Fyodor Pavlov-Andreevich. The Off white charity auction took place in the ART SPEED DATING format: three times a night, guests were one on one at the table with a new partner without breaking social distance.

**Artist of the Year Pavel Otdelnov** presented a specially commissioned project titled Geolocation, Please? Choose Yourself, which continues his reflection on non-places and changes in the suburban landscapes of large cities, started in his earlier series Inner Degunino and Shopping Centre. In the new project, conceived during the quarantine, the artist turns to virtual imagery: landscapes as seen through the cameras of Yandex and Google maps street view cars. The show preceded the large-scale project Russian Nowhere, which the artist is planning to launch in the near future.

**The Garage Museum of Contemporary Art – Cosmoscow 2020 Museum of the Year** – showcased a cross section of its permanent collection, the world's largest archive of Russian contemporary art. An interactive ‘cabinet of curiosities’ featured a collection of equipment for storage, restoration and digitization of analog video. The art fair’s visitors not only learned about the history of Garage’s media archive but got a chance to participate in the process of digitizing and restoring videocassettes, including digitizing cassettes from their personal archives. The Museum's booth displayed a selection of footage about Moscow’s and St Petersburg’s art scenes, spanning the decades from 1985 to 2020. It included documentaries from exhibitions and performances, archival footage, interview recordings and TV programmes.

**Cosmoscow 2020 Institution of the Year – Zheleznogorsk Center for Contemporary Art** – presented projects by the CCA’s founders, Chicory art group, who aim to establish an infrastructure for starting and developing an art environment in their hometown of Zheleznogorsk and the entire Kursk Region. In the two years since its establishment, the group of young enthusiastic artists has put together more than ten exhibition projects, and launched the Zheleznogorsk Biennale of Contemporary Art. At Cosmoscow, besides paintings and found objects, the Chicory group presented a VR project, Home Videos. Plein\_air\_extension, which is a collection of open-air group performances.

As part of the annual **Ruinart Art Patronat** project, contest winner **Margo Trushina** presented her new work, Living Corner. The artist created a mythical garden inside a specially commissioned structure. Inhabited by talking plants and singing stones, not only the garden demonstrated the abundance of nature but also revealed its fragility. Each of these hybrid objects have their own ‘voice’ heard when viewers touch or move them. The soundscape for the installation was created in collaboration with Playtronica Lab.

Trough September 20, as part the Cosmoscow Parallel Program, the Audi City Moscow innovation space will host **The Becoming** project of the **[Audi Born-Digital Award](https://audiborn.digital/)** winner **Pavel Seldemirov**. According to the expert jury, the project has become the strongest statement about the borderline and limit states of digital art and media art. The Audi Born-Digital Award was lauched by Audi and the Cosmoscow Foundation to support Russian media artists and the development of digital art in the country. The Becoming project is a total installation that recreates the space of a poetically interpreted forest. Visitors are invited on a journey where cultural artifacts and traces of 2020, which has already become an important milestone for all mankind, appear among virtual trees.

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

This year, the Fair presented a diverse Educational Program which consisted of three parts: Cosmoscow Talks, Media Forum, and the Business Program of the Made in Moscow section.

The main theme of **Cosmoscow Talks** was Co-Presence. The list of international speakers included: Francesco Manacorda (V-A-C Foundation), Javier Peres (Peres Projects), Aaron Cezar (Delfina Foundation), Alina Hannah (White Cube Russia and the Middle East), Yuka Hasegawa (Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo), and Christina Steinbrecher-Pfandt (Blockchain.art) among others who joined the online discussions. Separate discussions were held with the support of the Cosmoscow Program Partner Cultural Creative Agency, The Garage Journal, and Media Partner Russian Art Focus. During the days of the Fair, there was a live broadcast with simultaneous translation. A recordings of all discussions are available on the Online Cosmoscow website: <https://www.cosmoscow.com/ru/online/dis_programs/>.

This year, the theme of the **Media Forum** was Creativity as a Universal Vaccine. The list of speakers included CHUMA Vecherinka (author of channels in TG and TikTok), Anna Andronova (TEO by Cosmoscow platform), Dmitry Bezuglov (5th Ural Industrial Biennale), Alexey Dorozhkin (Elle Decoration Russia), Igor Grebelnikov (Kommersant), Evgenia Popova (Popov Foundation), Mikhail Shats (showman, actor), as well as artists Evgeny Granilshchikov, Lev Evzovich, Georgy Ostretsov, Pavel Pepperstein and many others. The Media Forum was organized with the support of: General Media Partner InStyle. A separate discussion was held by the Strategic Media Partner RBC Style.

**The Business Program of the Made in Moscow section** presented various formats from a discussion about the formation of private collections (organized by RBC Style) and a round table on the architecture of contemporary art fairs to public talks on prints and multiples and how to attract a sponsor to a cultural project (v confession agency). In addition, special tours at the Made in Moscow booth were guided by the curator Alexey Maslyaev.

**COSMOSCOW + BLAZAR**

The Cosmoscow International Contemporary Art Fair, together with the Sample online gallery and Anna Dyulgerova Communication agency, launched the [blazar](https://blazar.art/)***young art fair***, which took place at the Museum of Moscow (2, Zubovsky Boulevard) and became a satellite of Cosmoscow. Unlike many other fairs, blazar was attended not only by galleries but also by young independent artists, as well as educational institutions and initiatives in the realm of contemporary art.

Visitors were able to get to blazar with tickets to Cosmoscow. And thanks to the special project with the **Okko** multimedia service, guests had a chance to travel free of charge from the Cosmoscow site in Gostiny Dvor to the blazar in the Museum of Moscow and back on a **special cinema ship**. During the voyage video lectures from the Cosmoscow Foundation's online course [**How to Collect Contemporary Art**](http://courses.cosmoscow.com/) were screened. The course was created for collectors and art connoisseurs to help them navigate in art trends and contexts of the contemporary art market. The Okko ship cruised from 11 to 13 September from the Krymsky Most pier to the Ustinsky Most pier according to a schedule that was available on the fairs' websites.

**COSMOSCOW ART FAIR**

The Cosmoscow International Contemporary Art Fair brings together collectors, gallery owners and artists from across the globe. The art fair was founded in 2010 by art patron and collector Margarita Pushkina. Since 2014, Cosmoscow takes place every September with a spot of its own on the international art calendar. In 2019, 67 Russian and International galleries participated in the fair; it was attended by more than 22,000 visitors. The 8th Cosmoscow International Contemporary Art Fair was held at Moscow Gostiny Dvor (4 Ilyinka Street) from 11 to 13 September 2020. [www.cosmoscow.com](http://www.cosmoscow.com)

**COSMOSCOW FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART**

The Cosmoscow Foundation for Contemporary Art was established in 2017 and became the logical continuation of the Cosmoscow International Contemporary Art Fair. The main objective of the Foundation is systematic support of contemporary art in Russia, its integration into the international cultural context, promoting young artists, building up and nurturing arts philanthropy in Russia. The Foundation is active in the following areas: education; implementation (financing) of projects and unique cultural initiatives, selected on a competitive and non-competitive basis; purchasing and transferring contemporary artworks into museum collections. [www.foundation.cosmoscow.com](http://www.foundation.cosmoscow.com)

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