

June 8, 2018

CHARITY AUCTION  
TO BENEFIT THE COSMOSCOW FOUNDATION  
FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

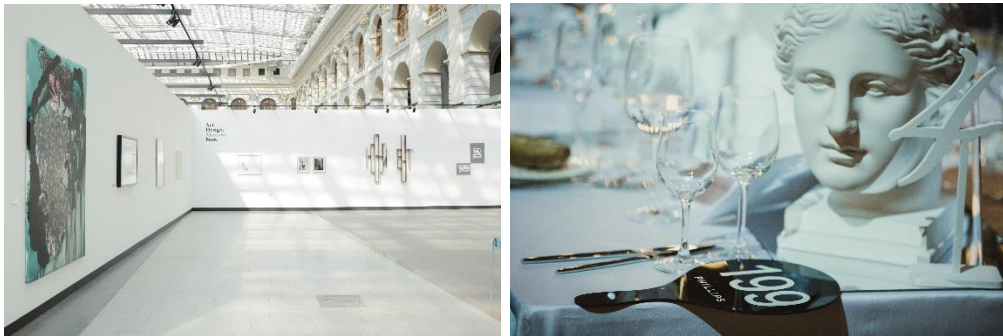
**cosmoscow**  
foundation

**off white**

PHILLIPS

## **Off white Charity Auction of Contemporary Art Celebrates its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

- Launched by Cosmoscow in 2014, the Charity Auction will be held as an independent event anticipating the Cosmoscow Fair in June 2018
- Charity Auction will benefit Cosmoscow Foundation for Contemporary Art established in 2017



**Moscow** – The 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the **Off white** contemporary art auction, a charitable initiative of the **Cosmoscow** International Contemporary Art Fair, will take place on June 8, 2018. The charity auction will take place in partnership with **Phillips** auction house for the second year running with the proceeds benefitting the **Cosmoscow Foundation for Contemporary Art**. In 2018, the auction will boast a number of changes including a new concept, new date, new venue and an international curator.

### **OFF WHITE HISTORY**

Within four years since the inaugural auction, this event has become one of the most renowned and highly anticipated moment in the Russian art calendar that traditionally feature works of both renowned and young artists whose growing amount of achievements reinforce the quality of the *Off white* auction. Over the years works of art from such well-established international names as AES+F, Patrick Demarchelier, Mark Quinn, Daniel Lefcourt, Erwin Olaf, Roland Flexner, and Rachel Howard, have been auctioned alongside the works of emerging but already acknowledged Russian artists, including Evgeny Antufiev, ZIP group, Polina Kanis, Sergey Kishchenko, Irina Korina, Taus Makhacheva, Alexandra Paperno, Alexander Povzner, Sergey Sapozhnikov, and Danila Tkachenko among others.

In total, over the past four years more than 70 artworks from 64 different artists have been auctioned. Some of those works have appeared for the first time at the *Off white* auction. For three consecutive years (from 2014 to 2016), the auction cooperated with the Naked Heart Foundation, fetching more than €550,000. In 2017, the auction totaled €118,700 and benefiting Cosmoscow Foundation for Contemporary Art and its programmes for the first time.

“I am very pleased to see that certain Cosmoscw projects take their own shape, find their identity and earn reputation. Over the years, the *Off white* auction has indeed become one of the most notable and anticipated events of the Moscow art scene. I am particularly pleased that from now on the auction has an international curator who is perfectly familiar with the fundamentals of the Russian contemporary art market. Due to the fact that for the second year in a row the auction will benefit the Cosmoscw Foundation for Contemporary Art, we will be able to continue implementing projects that promote the development of the Russian art market in general and certain artists in particular. In addition, we are very pleased to continue our cooperation with Phillips”, says **Margarita Pushkina, Founding Director of Cosmoscw International Contemporary Art Fair and Founder of Cosmoscw Foundation for Contemporary Art.**

“Phillips is happy to support the *Off White* charity auction that in five years has become an important cultural event of the capital. This year, the young curator and gallery owner Leopold Thun is in charge of the auction programme, and his choice of works from Russia is intriguing. As always, we will present Russian art in an international context building a dialogue between Russian and foreign artists”, says **Svetlana Marich, Phillips’ Worldwide Deputy Chairman.**

### **NEW CURATOR AND CONCEPT OF THE OFF WHITE 2018**

For the first time ever the auction and its concept will be prepared and curated by international curator **Leopold Thun.** Leopold is an independent curator and a co-runner of the Emalin gallery in London. This year, thematic boundaries of the auction determined by Leopold together with Cosmoscw Non-Commercial Program curator Alexey Maslyaeв are set by a multitude of interpretations of the word "light", which are manifested differently in art. Such subject made it possible to build subtle links between the works of Russian and international artists made in different media (photography, video, painting, etc.) and discover philosophical, symbolic, technical, physical, and metaphorical manifestations of light in an art work.

“It is becoming more and more apparent that the Post-Soviet label across an entire new generation of artists working in Russia today is not functional anymore. The country, just like the artists, is too versatile. Each artist brings his or her own local heritage and vocabulary into an international discourse and therefore becomes an inseparable part of what is happening in contemporary art today. The breadth, diversity and quality of the artworks coming from cities like Moscow or St Petersburg, as well as regions such as Siberia and Dagestan, is a testament to the importance that artists working within Russia hold today. The selection of works offered for sale during the *Off white* auction will be once more a tangible example for this”, says **Leopold Thun, Off white** charity auction curator.

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***Full list of auction lots will be announced in early May.***

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### **Cosmoscw**

Cosmoscw International Contemporary Art Fair was launched by Russian collector and philanthropist Margarita Pushkina in 2010 and aims to bring together both Russian and international collectors, galleries and artists. Cosmoscw is Russia’s only international art fair taking place every September with its own spot in an international art calendar. The 5th anniversary edition of the fair took

place at the Gostiny Dvor on September 8-10, 2017 representing a record number of 54 Russian and international galleries and welcoming 19,200 guests. Over 2,000 people visited Cosmoscow Collectors' Preview.

### **Phillips**

Phillips is a leading global platform for buying and selling 20th and 21st century art and design. With dedicated expertise in the areas of 20th Century and Contemporary Art, Design, Photographs, Editions, Watches, and Jewelry, Phillips offers professional services and advice on all aspects of collecting. Auctions and exhibitions are held at salerooms in New York, London, Geneva, and Hong Kong, while clients are further served through representative offices based throughout Europe, the United States and Asia. Phillips also offers an online auction platform accessible anywhere in the world. In addition to providing selling and buying opportunities through auction, Phillips brokers private sales and offers assistance with appraisals, valuations, and other financial services.

### **Cosmoscow Foundation for Contemporary Art**

Established in 2017, Cosmoscow Foundation for Contemporary Art is based on the experience and expertise of the Cosmoscow team, accumulated over many years to combine its non-commercial initiatives. The main objective of the Foundation is the systematic support of contemporary art in Russia and the promotion of young artists. The list of Foundation's activities includes purchase of contemporary art works and their donation to museum collections. For example, in 2017 as part of the partnership between Cosmoscow and the State Tretyakov Gallery a special acquisition of three works by Russian artist Andrey Kuzkin was made to the museum's permanent collection. Another important direction of the Foundation's activities is targeted support of certain artists carried out in a number of directions. By the decision of Cosmoscow Foundation for Contemporary Art Supervisory Board members, Russian artist Taus Makhacheva (b. 1983) was named Cosmoscow 2018 Artist of the Year. Smena Center of Contemporary Culture was chosen as Cosmoscow 2018 Non-Profit Institution of the Year. Smena is an independent initiative without private or state funding, established in Kazan, Russia in 2013. It incorporates a contemporary art gallery, a lecture hall, bookstore, and a publishing house. Projects by both Artist of the Year and Non-Profit Institution of the Year will be represented at Cosmoscow 2018 with the support of the Foundation.

### **Off white charity auction**

Launched by the Cosmoscow International Contemporary Art Fair in 2014, the Off white auction is an annual charitable event. For the first three years the auction was benefiting the Naked Heart Foundation, having raised more than €550,000 for the Foundation's programs to support children in need. As of 2017, the auction is benefitting the Cosmoscow Foundation for Contemporary Art.

### **Leopold Thun**

Leopold Thun is an independent curator and gallerist based in London. He holds an MA in Art History and International Relations from the University of St Andrews. Before he joined ARTUNER, he worked for Sotheby's, the New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Copenhagen and the Belvedere Wien. Leopold co-runs Emalin gallery in London. Leopold also sits on the Committee of the Outset Young Production Fund.

### **Alexey Maslyaev**

Alexey Maslyaev is a curator, cultural historian, the Head of the Research and Teaching Methodology Sector of the Moscow Museum of Modern Art Education Department. He is also a curator of the Cosmoscow International Contemporary Art Fair Non-Commercial Programme. He has been nominated for the Innovation Prize in the nominations 'Curator Project' ('No Water Tomorrow' exhibition) and 'Regional Project' ('Story Demands To Be Continued' exhibition).