

9th Cosmoscow International Contemporary Art Fair Enjoys Great Success at the Central Manege

- Cosmoscow 2021 was attended by 15,000 people.
- Eighty-two galleries, including the collective booth Created in Moscow, displayed the work of over 350 artists.
- These galleries came from the widest range of countries in the fair's history: Austria, Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Hong Kong, Russia, USA, France, Switzerland, and Estonia.
- Introduction of a new section, 'THE INBETWEEN: DIGITAL ART AS NFTS', in collaboration with CADAF (New York).
- Cosmoscow Online will stay open until September 26.

The 9th edition of Cosmoscow International Contemporary Art Fair was held **from September 18 to September 20 (preview on September 17) at the Central Manege** (Manege Sq, 1, Moscow) with the support of Ruinart (Official Partner), Audi Russia (Automobile Partner), Samsung (Innovation Partner), Hutton Development (Partner), Breguet (Watch Partner), Visa (Cosmoscow Online Partner), Otkrytie Private Banking (Partner), and St. Regis Moscow Nikolskaya (Official Hotel of the Fair).

In total, Cosmoscow 2021 was attended by 15,000 people. The fair was held in a COVID-free format requiring all visitors to attend in viewings with fixed entry-times.

82 galleries, including 13 international members, presented booths at the fair. This is the highest number that the fair has seen in its history. Visitors of Cosmoscow 2021 had the chance to get acquainted with galleries from **Austria, Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Germany, Georgia, Hong Kong, Russia, and Switzerland.**

цена/szena gallery from Moscow won the annual prize for 'Best Booth', displaying work by Igor Samolet, Evgeny Dedov and Kirill Garshin. The gallery is now able to take part in the fair next year for free.

Cosmoscow 2021 achieved strong sales. Many booths sold all of their pieces, and a good few managed to completely change the display several times over the four days of the fair. The price range for sold artworks varied from €35, which bought a print by Andrey Syaylev, 'White paper, for drawing, 100% art' (ArtTube Editions, Moscow), to € 210,000. For this price, two works were sold together: 'My Winter Palace N.14' by Zhan Huang and 'Red on Red' by Mr Doodle (Pearl Lam Galleries, Hong Kong).

COSMOSCOW ONLINE IS STILL OPEN

The fair at the Manege may be finished, but Cosmoscow Online is still running and will be available until September 26 on the platform TEO. As the largest online marketplace for contemporary art in Russia, TEO allows you to view and acquire works from a curated selection in the comfort.

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9th International contemporary art fair

After making a purchase on Cosmoscw Online with any Visa card, visitors will receive access to special rewards. They can also enjoy free delivery on all purchases over 150,000 rubles as part of a special offer by Otkrytie Private Banking.

COSMOSCOW 2021 SPECIAL PROJECTS

THE INBETWEEN: DIGITAL ART AS NFTS

Cosmoscw partnered with Contemporary and Digital Art Fair (CADAF) from New York to present a new, curated section for NFTs and digital works of art — many of which were turned into NFTs specially for Cosmoscw Fair. The project was curated by Elena Zavelev, the founder and CEO of CADAF, and Jess Conatser, the chief curator for CADAF & Digital Art Month and founder of Studio As We Are.

Featured artists: 404.Zero, #NOTOOLATE, Kevin Abosch, Maria Agureeva, Ines Alpha, Olga Ozerskaya, Andy Picci, Ivan Plusch, Dima Rebus, Recycle, Anne Spalter, Anna Tagantseva-Kobzeva, Erik Winkowski.

Visitors could explore digital art at Cosmoscw thanks to technology from Samsung, including their QLED televisions, The Sero, and The Premier.

CREATED IN MOSCOW

For the second time, visitors could enjoy the collaborative booth Created in Moscow. This curatorial project was created with the support of the Agency for Creative Industries, which belongs to the Department of Entrepreneurship and Innovative Development of the City of Moscow. The theme of this year was 'Small Sculptural Forms'. The project was supervised by Alexei Maslyayev, curator of the Cosmoscw Foundation for Contemporary Art.

The following Moscow galleries took part: 11.12 GALLERY, Alisa Gallery, a-s-t-r-a, ArtVisioner, Artwin Gallery, ARTZIP, Askeri Gallery, Azbuka, Boccara Art Galleries, Heritage Gallery, Fragment Gallery, JART Gallery, K35 Space, LUCH Gallery, New Sincerity, Omelchenko Gallery, PA Gallery, PENNLAB Gallery, pop/off/art, SAMPLE, Syntax, сцена/szena, Tirazh 1/1. Thanks to the support of the Department, the 23 competitively-selected galleries were each able to exhibit one sculpture at the booth for free.

COSMOSCOW FOUNDATION PROJECTS

RUINART ART PATRONAT

Ruinart Art Patronat is an annual award for the creation of site-specific art works based on the results of a competitive selection. The winner of the competition receives an award, which includes funding for the implementation of the project proposed by the contemporary artist, as well as curatorial and informational support.

The winner of the annual Ruinart Art Patronat project was **Misha Buryj**, a Russian artist and author of assemblages, objects, and installations. The use and search for materials left behind by the production of the cultural industry plays a decisive role in the artist's work. At the 9th Cosmoscw International Contemporary Art Fair, Misha Buryj presented a mixed-media installation. The work was a continuation of the artist's large-scale series 'Clot', which uses scraps of advertising and different types of waste.

The project is dedicated to environmental problems, consumer and mass culture, and propaganda. Cosmoscow Foundation thanks Samsung for providing The Frame televisions to showcase the artist's work.

AUDI BORN-DIGITAL AWARD

The Audi Born-Digital Award was established by Audi and the Cosmoscow Foundation in order to develop Russian digital art. The winning work was exhibited in the innovative space of Audi City Moscow, launching the parallel program of the Cosmoscow Fair. The first Audi Born-Digital Award contest was held in 2020 in response to the unprecedented situation caused by the pandemic and the global transfer to an online format.

The Vorozheya art group, the winner of the 2nd annual Audi Born-Digital Award, includes Anna Afonina, Valeria Gray, Nastya Korotkova, and Maria Romanova. By studying the poetics of the creative class, freelance, and web conferences, the artists create their own corporative mythology that is filled with fantastic images and weird creatures. **'Safari Verucca'**, the project of the Vorozheya group, offered a trip to a wild, undeveloped fantastic planet with luxurious pearly landscapes and unique species.

ARTIST OF THE YEAR

The Artist of the Year nomination was created to support local artists. The annual selection of the 'Artist of the Year' is based on competitive selection. The winner of the project gets the opportunity to prepare an artwork that is presented at the Cosmoscow Fair. Cosmoscow Foundation provides curatorial, informational and financial support to the project.

Irina Korina is an artist and set designer who uses textured materials and fabrics in her works and creates total installations as well. Irina Korina's installation entitled **'Razzle-Dazzle'** is a contradictory and changeable space that continuously tricking and confusing the viewer. Korina deduces the aesthetic law from the material, directly tangible side of life: the viewer seems to be in contact with familiar things from everyday life, but the effect of recognition is accompanied by the feeling that something went wrong with them.

INSTITUTION OF THE YEAR

The annual selection of the Institution of the Year is competition-based. The winner is announced by the Cosmoscow Foundation Supervisory Board. Following the results of the competition, the Foundation provides funding for an art project to be presented at the Cosmoscow Fair, as well as curatorial and informational support. This year, the 'Institution of the Year' award went to the Vyksa Art Residence, a year-round platform for art professionals that allows artists to receive support and implement their ideas in Vyksa (Nizhny Novgorod Region).

Vyksa's presentation was divided into three conceptual blocks: the art residence and its new building, the artists who have participated in different years, and a conference on hospitality practices, which is planned for November this year. As part of Cosmoscow Talks, the curators of the residence gave a series of lectures on this very topic.

MUSEUM OF THE YEAR

Contributing to museum collections is at the core of this program: the Cosmoscw Foundation acquires the works of modern Russian artists and donates them to the Museum of the Year. This year, the honorary status was granted to **Multimedia Art Museum, Moscow (MAMM)**, the first museum of photography and modern art in Russia, which will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2021. The works of the following artists were purchased for the museum collection: Andrey Kuzkin, Valery Chtak, Ilya Kolesnikov, Sergei Shutov, and Slava PTRK.

COLLECTOR'S EYE

Collector's Eye is an annual special project of the fair that is dedicated to private collections. This year, Collector's Eye presented selected artworks from Vera and Alexey Priymas' collection (Moscow) and Evgeny Khamin's collection (Voronezh). The exhibition, titled 'Numbered, Weighed and Found...Very Light', was based on an association game and revealed the inner sensuous life of these collections. The artworks are selected according to the simple, binary categories of perception: peaceful and dramatic, graceful and brutal, funny and serious, realistic and abstract, and so on. Thanks to this framework, the exhibition ended up placing together pieces by Valery Koshlyakov, Semyon Faibisovich, Dimitri Krasnopevtsev, and Pyotr Belenok from the Priymas' collection; and works by Oleg Tselkov, Mikhail Chernyshov, Igor Chelkovsky, and Oscar Rabin from Evgeny Khamin's collection.

GARAGE AT COSMOSCOW. Art in the City: The History and Contemporary Practices of St. Petersburg Performance

For the 9th edition of Cosmoscw Fair, Garage Museum of Contemporary Art presented the St. Petersburg part of its archive collection. The project focused on ten stories about interacting with the city, which are based on materials from the archives of Andrei Khlobystin, Irina Aktuganova and Sergey Busov, Lyubov Gurevich, Lena Popova, Navicula Artis Gallery, and the group Factory of Found Clothing, all of which are held at Garage. The display at the Museum's booth was designed to demonstrate the full diversity of St. Petersburg's artistic life in the 1990s, a time of bold creative experiments when new forms of art, lifestyle, and leisure were emerging.

Throughout the fair's run, the Museum staged performances at their booth and other Cosmoscw venues. These were given by Anna Andrizhievskaya, Danini, Lera Lerner, Semyon Motolyants, Party of the Dead, and North-7. The musical part of their program included a performance by Valery Alakhov (of the New Composers) and Lera Nibiru, and a DJ set by Lena Popova.

IN MEMORY OF NIKITA ALEKSEEV:

This section of the fair was dedicated to the memory of Nikita Alekseev, one of leading figures in the Moscow Conceptualist school, who sadly passed away earlier this year. The fair was able to exhibit 'Night on the Shore', a work from 2017 that was originally created for an exhibition at the Chiba City Library in Japan. Provided by Iragui Gallery, it was the first time that the piece had been publicly exhibited in Russia.

PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS AT COSMOSCOW

Cosmoscow Talks

Cosmoscow Talks is a series of discussions about current issues in the contemporary art market. It aims to elucidate the most contentious problems that face artistic and cultural institutions today.

In collaboration with our partner, the Galleries Association (AGA), we held a series of discussions that were aimed at art professionals and anyone else interested in such topics as strategies for entering the international market, purchases of contemporary art for museum collections, and price-setting and the transparency of the art market.

The necessity of creating art archives and the workings of the public-art market in Russia were among the other themes discussed by speakers.

Mediaforum

Guest speakers at our Mediaforum come from the media or significant publications that have contemporary art as a focus. As is now customary for the Mediaforum, discussions were led by InStyle Russia, the general media partner of the fair. Across conversations with artists and curators, actors and bloggers, gallery owners and museum directors, the magazine discussed empathy in the world of contemporary art, sustainability, and the process of becoming a famous artist.

Other discussions at the Media Forum were dedicated to the position of contemporary art in the traditional museum, collectible design, and successful collaborations between artists and large brands.

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