

## FIRST RUSSIAN CONTEMPORARY ART FORUM TOOK PLACE IN MOSCOW



**Cosmoscow Art Fair, The Moscow Times Conferences and the Austrian Cultural Forum gathered International and Russian experts to discuss all aspects of the art market in Russia ahead of opening of a new Garage space**

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The First Russian Contemporary Art Forum was organized and curated by the only international contemporary art fair in Russia **Cosmoscow**, **The Moscow Times Conferences** and the **Austrian Cultural Forum** and intended to bring together the country's contemporary art scene and international art community ahead of the major events taking place in Moscow in 2015. Among them are the opening of a new Rem Koolhaas space to house the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, the organizing of the second edition of Russia's only international Contemporary art fair Cosmoscow, and the 6th Moscow Biennale for Contemporary Art, curated by Bart de Baere.

The Russian Contemporary Art Forum was focused on three main topics: **Contemporary Art Market in Russia**, **Contemporary Collectors**, and **Art commissions today**, and welcomed international and local art experts. Such topics were due to help examining the current situation of the Russian art landscape (in its both commercial and non-commercial aspects), showing its strengths and opportunities. The international context highlighted the global picture and outlined some perspectives on the future.

**Margarita Pushkina and Sandra Nedvetskaya, directors of Cosmoscow:** *"The contemporary art market in Russia has existed for the last two decades and has gone through periods of rapid growth, change, re-evaluation and revival. However in order for it to develop and grow, there needs to be healthy competition and at the same time synergy between the various players which leads to a structured, layered and functioning marketplace. The infrastructure has to be alive and interdependent. Moreover, Russian contemporary art has to be an active part of the international market and must be viewed within the global context and not as an isolated "local" phenomenon."*

First panel discussion titled **"Moscow Matters - a rapidly growing community around contemporary art in Moscow and what it needs?"** was devoted to the art market in Russia and its development. The opening talk moderated by **Ben Rawlingson Plant**, managing partner at Brunswick Arts, intended to touch upon the state of the necessary commercial components for a healthy art market such as functioning galleries, art fairs, auction houses' representation and international PR and media recognition. The speakers included **Sandra Nedvetskaia**, co-director of Cosmoscow Art Fair, **Zain Masud**, International Director of India Art Fair, **Ekaterina Iragui**, director of Galerie Iragui, **Birte Kleemann**,

director at Michael Werner Gallery, **Katya Vinokurova**, director of Christie's Moscow Office, and **Inna Bazhenova**, publisher of The Art Newspaper Russia.

**Birte Kleeman:** *"Russian has been drawing much attention lately. Just look at a number of international guests that come to Moscow this season for the Garage opening, Calder exhibition at the Pushkin museum and the first Russian contemporary art forum run by Cosmoscw. And it's needless to say that Russian pavilions were rightly considered among the very best at during three latest editions of the Venice Biennale. All of this brings an optimistic perspective for Russia as an integral part of the international art scene."*

**Inna Bazhenova:** *"Nowadays we see a clear development trend for contemporary art in Russia. There is a growing number of new museums and other exhibition venues that are still to be built – for instance new building of National Center for Contemporary Art and new exhibition space of Hermitage in Moscow's ZIL. Very soon they will become active buyers and thus will help the market to flourish."*

The second panel discussion titled **"Russia's Contemporary Collections of the future – where will they be and what will shape them?"** was devoted to Russian private and corporate collections, their principles and motivation of collecting, and the role of professional art advisers. Moderated by Dr. **Antonio Geusa** the panel discussion included the following speakers: **Margarita Pushkina**, the founding director of Cosmoscw Art Fair, **Marina Sitnina**, Vice President of Gazprombank, **Olga Nefedova**, founding director of Orientalist Museum in Doha and independent curator, **Olga Vashchilina**, collector and curator of private collections, and Dmitry Kostygin, collector of contemporary art.

**Dr. Antonio Geusa:** *"The Forum among other things is an important mediator between artists and collectors that help them to find common ground and discuss current issues in contemporary art."*

The third panel discussion was devoted to **"Foundations as a new way of commissioning"** and included such speakers as **Teresa Iarocci Mavica**, director of the VAC Foundation, Jens Farschou, owner and CEO of Faurischou Foundation, **Dmitry Aksenov**, founder of Aksenov Family Foundation, and **Dr. André Rogger**, head of Credit Suisse Collection. Speakers discussed the role of philanthropy in developing of growing art scene and market, the importance of Contemporary Art Foundations as players within the art market and foundations as supporters for young artists, commissions and grants.

**Jens Faurischou:** *"We were discussing some interesting topics of extreme importance. What really drives the market is the opportunity of intercultural exchange and I'm glad to observe its boom in Russia now."*

**Teresa Iarocci Mavica:** *"I am glad that such initiative like Contemporary Art Forum is taking place – taking about these issues is great, but we need to start acting. There needs to be a synergy within the art community all of us are responsible to be part of the process."*

**Dmitry Aksenov:** *"Why Moscow Why Now contemporary art forum is, primarily, a platform for dialogue. And dialogue and concerted effort of all Russia's contemporary art process participants are key elements for successful development."*

**Dr. André Rogger:** *"Credit Suisse has a long tradition of supporting art globally. Our participation in the Russian Contemporary Art Forum has provided an excellent opportunity for us to share our experience of assembling a corporate collection and fostering young talent in Switzerland. It has also allowed us to gain further insights into the world of Russian contemporary art in a year in which we have entered into a strategic partnership with Cosmoscw, the international contemporary art fair in Moscow."*

The Russian Contemporary Art Forum also included moderated one-to-one discussions between artists and curators that helped the audience to discover young contemporary artists. **Artists' talks** included two dialogs between Taus Makhacheva and Bart de Baere, director of the contemporary art museum in Antwerp (M KHA), and Alexandra Paperno and Alistair Hicks, senior curator at Deutsche Bank.

**Alistair Hicks:** *“What we were trying to show to the general audience with these Artist Talks is a simple fact that contemporary artists are ordinary people. But it’s important to remember how much they can contribute to our lives and to give us, so that we could take it.”*

**Taus Makhacheva:** *“Such events help to build a dialogue that aim to change the conditions for artists work. For me as an artist it is extremely important to understand what the driving force is for other art market participants – people around me. After the Forum it was clear that it is the same for everyone.”*

**Bart De Baere:** *“Moscow is destined to become a reference for the world and it's good to prepare that destiny.”*

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**Katerina Norkina,** The Moscow Times Conferences Department Director: *“We are glad that the Forum was so well received among business audience that is rather demanding towards the content of such events. It is important that at a time of such a complicated situation regarding the foreign policy the Forum demonstrates that contemporary Russian art is of international importance and can be eagerly sought after at the international market. We hope that this Forum will become an annual event.”*

The Forum was attended by over 150 guests. Both speakers and the audience were pleased by the results. As an outcome the organizers decided to make it an annual event. Further information on the programme and the speakers of the 2016 edition will be revealed early next year.

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Video about the Forum



Photos from the Forum



#### **Information about organizers of Russian Contemporary Art Forum:**

##### **Cosmoscow**

Initially launched by Margarita Pushkina in 2010, Cosmoscow aims to bring International and Russian artists and collectors together. Cosmoscow is the only international contemporary art fair taking place in Russia and will be held from 11 - 13 September 2015 at Gostiny Dvor, Moscow, situated close to the Kremlin and Red Square. The Fair will be co-directed by Margarita Pushkina and Sandra Nedvetskaia, former International Director of Christie’s, Russia and CIS. Around the city, satellite exhibitions will be held at the same time as the Fair as part of the carefully curated VIP programme, alongside a major charity art auction for the Naked Heart Foundation that is intended to be an additional draw for key international collectors to come to Moscow in September. In 2015 Cosmoscow coincides with the Moscow Biennale and a major retrospective of Louise Bourgeois at the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art.

[www.cosmoscow.com](http://www.cosmoscow.com)

##### **Austrian Cultural Forum**

Being part of the Austrian Foreign Ministry the Austrian Cultural Forum Moscow is the official representation of Austrian Culture and Arts in the Russian Federation and Belarus. The ACF Moscow is located in the Austrian Embassy in Moscow. The work of ACF Moscow is the active support of Austrian Artists in Russia, its focus is Contemporary Visual Arts and its characteristic is to consequently involve not only Austrian but also Russian artists and is working especially in the Russian regions that ACF Moscow regards as a unique source of inspiration and a true treasure for creative people not mattering whether coming from Austria, Russia or elsewhere. ACF Moscow has been responsible, among many other bilateral and international projects, for the Austrian Cultural Season in Russia 2013/2014 and is currently preparing a major exhibition project on Russian industrial cities as a special project of VI. Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art.

##### **The Moscow Times Conferences**

Conference business of the only English-language newspaper The Moscow Times exists over 17 years. The newspaper annually organizes over 50 conferences, client events, round tables in the venues of multiple

international events, business missions, meetings and private investment road shows. Since 1998, conferences organized by the newspaper are held with the participation of leading partners, national and international companies, chambers of commerce, federal and regional authorities, including Moscow City Government, Federal Antimonopoly Service, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Federal Customs Service, Federal Tax Service, and others. The Moscow Times Conferences are a team of 25 professionals in the area of business events, more than 8000 unique participants of the conferences, 500 speakers, and 200 regular partners during the year. See more details at [events.moscowtimes.ru](https://events.moscowtimes.ru)