



2014 INTERNATIONAL
CONTEMPORARY ART
FAIR

COSMOSCOW CONCLUDES ITS SUCCESSFUL RETURN TO THE INTERNATIONAL ART WORLD

Russia confirms its place in the annual art calendar as sales and new connections are made by visiting and local galleries

***An Exchange between Russian and International Contemporary Art
19th-21st September 2014, Central Manège, Moscow Russia***

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“Cosmoscow makes a serious contribution to a changing international art world, one in which many cultures mix and clash and don't just homogenise into one smooth global stew.”

- Alistair Hicks, Senior Curator of Deutsche Bank

Moscow, 22ND September 2014: Russia's only international contemporary art fair, Cosmoscow, yesterday closed its doors amid praise from visitors and gallerists alike for the 2014 re-launch. Affirming Russia's strength as a destination for artists, gallerists and a new wave of contemporary art collecting, sales were reported across the fair by international and Russian galleries alike.

Praised repeatedly by visitors and gallerists for its stylish design within the historic setting of Moscow's cultural space the Manège, the fair presented new and recent works from key Russian-speaking and international artists by over 30 commercial and non-commercial galleries and cultural foundations. Designed to bring together key players in Russia's art scene and the international art community, it welcomed over 7,000 visitors including collectors, arts professionals and the interested public.

“We knew that there was appetite for a high-quality programme of contemporary art for visitors and collectors in Russia, as well as a great energy amongst practicing artists” commented the fair's founder, Margarita Pushkina and her co-director, Sandra Nedvetskaia. “Cosmoscow is the result of our desire to see more networks for artists and gallerists in Russia and the CIS, as well as to create an international moment for the art scene here. We're thrilled with the experience all of our participating galleries and non-profit partners have helped to create. We saw a broad group of interested, serious visitors come to Moscow for the fair, and many new connections made, and we look forward to many editions to come.”

Exhibiting Galleries

Though largely new ground for many of the international attendees, the fair proved to be a positive first step into the Russian-speaking artistic and collector territories. Participants from Russia and the CIS also commented on their

pleasure in a new annual programme to highlight contemporary practice in the region, as well as to create a dialogue with international artists little seen in the local market within the exhibition.

"Cosmoscow is as professional as any other high quality international art fair and we are proud to say that we sold one of our key works, the "Portemanteau 1965" by Marcel Broodthaers to a Russian collector. We are confident to be back next September." Justine Birbil, Director, Michael Werner Gallery commented.

Triumph Gallery, Moscow, reported excellent interest in their selected artists, with sales of works by AES+F and Recycle. At Beck & Eggleling, much interest was roused by the presentation of key historic works by Heinz Mack, prior to the pending Guggenheim retrospective in October at MoMA, in New York. Michael Beck, Co-Founder of Galerie Beck & Eggeling said *"We think that Cosmoscow is an important tool for Russia's development into a more open society of free minds and free thinking. It was courageous of Sandra and Margarita to bring some leading western galleries to Moscow especially in these difficult circumstances - in both ways: economically and politically. And the fair proved that there is great interest in contemporary art from an already open-minded and thoughtful audience in today's Russia and we are convinced that there is a big potential of art-collectors in the near future."*

"We are pleased with the results and very impressed by the beauty of Manège, high level of service and professionalism of the Cosmoscow team. Directors Margarita Pushkina and Sandra Nedvetskaia proved to have deep knowledge of the market and genuine curiosity towards contemporary art. We are also deeply thankful for the support, knowledge, and passion for contemporary art of a group of Moscow women who have been seminal to the success of the fair. We are sure that this event will become a necessary launching ground for future success and the development of the market in general." Added Emanuela Campoli, Director of Campoli Presti.

"We have been very happy to participate at this edition of Cosmoscow and are more than content with our sales and even got several inquiries through artsy. The first edition in 2010 already set a high level of quality which has been refined this year and makes Cosmoscow a truly international event. The organisation and management of the fair have been impeccable." Sergey Khripun, Director XL Gallery.

Private Italian collector Sigifredo di Canossa, who is based in Monaco commented *"The amazing location and freshness of the interpretation of Cosmoscow makes me think that this fair has a brilliant future. I appreciate the great work from the directors in the organisation of the fair. It was for me an opportunity to visit galleries not very well known in the West with artists that I'd like to add (and I will) to my collection. Moscow is a vibrant, exciting and beautiful city, I was thrilled to be here for Cosmoscow."*

The parallel programme was well received, with excellent attendance at the Cosmoscow talks programme, which included discussions on new markets and collecting in the online art space. The exhibition of works from private collections in Moscow, *Collector's Eye*, gave a rare chance to see the works chosen by local collectors. Of the exhibition the curator Olga Vashchilina added *"I consider this project to be the first of its kind, conducted at such a high level. I am extremely grateful for the support we have received from collectors who entrusted us with their works. I think that the Moscow public has seen something new and that people will need time to think it all over. And if some of them will embrace contemporary art our mission will be accomplished."*

The Azeri not-for-profit organisation, YARAT, which showed a site specific rope installation work by Azeri artist Rashad Alakbarov, *"Cosmoscow is a great initiative for the city and the country. It was a pure pleasure to see such well known galleries and famous artists under the roof of Manège."* Added Director, Anastasia Blokhina.

Alistair Hicks, Senior Curator of Deutsche Bank who presented his book *The Global Art Compass. New Directions in 21st-Century Art* within the talks programme commented *"Cosmoscow makes a serious contribution to a changing international art world, one in which many cultures mix and clash and don't just homogenise into one smooth global stew."*

V-A-C Foundation and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Antwerp, launched a new annual acquisitions and artists' programme at the fair. Presenting work by four Russian artists, Taus Makhacheva became a winner and a new acquisition of cutting-edge contemporary art museum in Antwerp was announced at the opening night. Bart De Baere director of the M HKA, the Antwerp Contemporary Art Museum added: *"This fair embodies the kind of ambition towards the future that we have to hope that Moscow will have."*

Cosmoscow also hosted an exclusive contemporary art auction, *off white*, to benefit The Naked Heart Foundation, which raised €209,500 from donated works, the founder Natalia Vodianova commented on the auction and the fair *"Art has often played an important role in the fund raising for the Naked Heart Foundation, adding another dimension to its strong cultural ties. We are very grateful to all galleries and artists who have supported us for the Off White Auction as well as to all guests and buyers who helped us raise much-needed funds. It was a very special event for us - our first auction dedicated exclusively to contemporary Russian art under the umbrella of Cosmoscow international art fair - and I am very happy with its results. We raised over 200,000 euro which would help the Naked Heart Foundation carry out its programmes - creating more free services for families raising children with special needs and building new, safe and inclusive play facilities across Russia."*

Cosmoscow has partnered online with Artsy, the leading resource for learning about and collecting art. The dedicated site hosted a preview of the fair and offers a personalised guide through the [Artsy app for iPhone](#).

Cosmoscow is proud to be supported by a strong advisory board counting major international art world figures such as **Dilyara Allakhverdova, Teresa Mavica, Olga Vashchilina, Natalia Vodianova and Antoine Arnault.**

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Notes to Editors:

Cosmoscow

Initially launched by Margarita Pushkina in 2010, Cosmoscow aims to bring International and Russian artists and collectors together. Cosmoscow is Russia's only international contemporary art fair in Russia and will be held from 19 - 21 September, 2014 at the Central Manege, Moscow, situated close to the Kremlin and Red Square. The Fair will be co-directed by Margarita Pushkina and Sandra Nedvetskaia, former Director of Christie's, Russia. 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 that is intended to be an additional draw for key international collectors to come to Moscow in September. Cosmoscow coincided with Manifesta'10 in 2014, and the Moscow Biennale in 2015.

Margarita Pushkina

Patron and Collector Ms. Pushkina founded Cosmospow in 2010 and is both an art historian and patron of young Russian artists. Having studied at Lomonosov Moscow State University, she went on to publish the architecture journal *Project Classics* from 2000-2010. At the same time she was the Managing Director of Kit Finance Private Banking and oversaw the creation of their corporate contemporary art collection.

Sandra Nedvetskaia

Ms. Nedvetskaia joins Cosmospow after almost ten years at Christie's, where she was instrumental in building the Russian and CIS market, working with top collectors from the region and overseeing a series of significant exhibitions across Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. Advising clients on works for sale across the world, Sandra is a well known face internationally and a great advocate of contemporary Russian art. She is also a Trustee of the Naked Heart Foundation which works to transform the lives of Russian children.

Central Exhibition Hall Manège

The Central Exhibition Hall Manège with the support of Department of Culture conducts exhibitions of contemporary artists from 2012. In 2013 Manège participated in Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art for the first time. In 2014 Manège presents a grandiose project of Peter Greenaway and Saskia Boddeke "The golden Age of the Russian Avant-garde". Over 406 000 people visited Manège in 2013.

Garage Museum of Contemporary Art

Through an extensive program of exhibitions, research, education, and publishing, Garage reflects on current developments in Russian and international culture, creating opportunities for public dialogue and the production of new work and ideas. Founded in 2008 by Dasha Zhukova in Moscow, the institution is building a unique research archive focusing on the development of contemporary art in Russia while pioneering diverse educational projects for families and professionals that are the first of their kind in the country. These provide the foundation from which experimental exhibitions, events, and screenings are initiated.

V-A-C Foundation

V-A-C is a not-for-profit private institution founded in Moscow in 2009, committed to supporting contemporary art in Russia. The Foundation's focus is directed towards contemporary art and cultural practice with the aim of providing a platform for creativity in the wider sense of the word. They strive to be actively engaged in artistic production, rather than the patronage or sponsorship of ongoing artistic processes. V-A-C is deeply committed to the growing importance of art made in Russia as well as the new generations of artists from around the world.

M HKA

Museum of Contemporary Art Antwerp – is one of the eight major institutions of the Flemish Community. The museum keeps its finger on the pulse of current events in contemporary art both at home and abroad. Located in the avant-garde city par excellence, M HKA houses a rich and diverse collection which it displays in frequently changing presentations both inside and outside the museum. M HKA is a dynamic meeting place for art, artists and culture lovers alike; every year, it presents a versatile exhibition program that is supplemented with numerous artists' talks, performances, lectures, book presentations, walking talks and activities for young and old. Also, every Thursday, the museum is open at night until 9 p.m.

Artsy

Artsy is the leading resource for art collecting and education. Artsy provides free access via its website (Artsy.net) and iPhone app to international exhibitions, museum collections, galleries, art fairs, curated sales, and benefit auctions. It currently features over 180,000 images of art and architecture by 25,000 artists from over 2,000 leading galleries and over 300 museum and institutional partners, which includes the world's largest online database of contemporary art. Artsy's encyclopedic collection spans historical works, such as the [Rosetta Stone](#) and [the Colosseum](#), to modern and contemporary works by artists such as [Pablo Picasso](#), [Willem de Kooning](#), [Richard Serra](#), [Lucien Smith](#), [Sarah Lucas](#), and [Cindy Sherman](#). Powered by The Art Genome Project, a classification system that maps the connections between artists and artworks, Artsy fosters new generations of art lovers, museum-goers, patrons, and collectors.

The Naked Heart Foundation

The Naked Heart Foundation is an international charity that was founded by supermodel and philanthropist Natalia Vodianova in 2004. Ten years on, the Foundation is one of the most prominent NGOs working in Russia. The organisation's main goal is to end

Russia's long-standing tradition of placing children with special needs and learning disabilities in care homes and orphanages. The charity develops family support services across the country and builds inclusive play facilities to provide safe play environments for children of all abilities. To date, it has built more than 120 accessible play parks and playgrounds across Russia, it runs a Family Support Centre in Nizhny Novgorod and play libraries in Tula and Tver. The Naked Heart Foundation supports the projects of dozens of other Russian NGOs and runs a large-scale education project in Nizhny Novgorod. The charity also holds an annual International Forum for childcare professionals and carries out extensive advocacy work aimed at changing attitudes to disability in Russia. www.nakedheart.org

Galleries:

Artwin (Moscow)
Beck & Eggeling (Dusseldorf)
Campoli Presti (London, Paris)
Grinberg (Moscow)
Iragui (Moscow)
Javier López (Madrid)
Frolov Gallery (Moscow)
Marina Gisich (Saint-Petersburg)
Massimo De Carlo (London, Milan)
Michael Werner (New York, London, Trebbin)
Open Gallery (Moscow)
Pechersky (Moscow)
Pop/off/art gallery (Moscow, Berlin)
Regina (Moscow)
RuArts (Moscow)
Savina (Saint-Petersburg)
Temnikova & Kasela (Tallinn)
Triumph (Moscow)
XL (Moscow)

Discovery:

Anna Nova (Saint-Petersburg)
ArtSvit (Dnepropetrovsk)
A Palazzo (Brescia)
Gallery 21 (Moscow)
HLAM (Voronezh)
Paperworks (Moscow)
Ural Vision (Yekaterinburg, Budapest)

Non Commercial Projects:

Don Contemporary Art Foundation (Rostov-on-Don)
Laboratoria Art & Science Space (Moscow)
Yarat (Baku)
XL Projects (Moscow)