



ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВО
МОСКВЫ

Moscow City Project

Constructed Situations

Istituto Santa Maria della Pietà, Venice

November 21-26, 2019

Artists: Ilya Fedotov-Fedorov, Tatyana Akhmetgalieva, Aljoscha, Margo Trushina, Kirill Garshin, Alexandra Paperno, Vadim de Grainville (Grigoryan).

Curator: Masha Sergeeva

Opening reception: November 21, h 6.30 pm

"I have striven not to laugh at human actions, not to weep at them, nor to hate them, but to understand them."

— **Baruch Spinoza, Tractatus Theologico-Politicus**

Bugan wei tianxia xian 不敢為天下先 "not dare to be ahead in the world"

— **the third of Taoist Treasures**

Moscow City is pleased to present the show of contemporary artists from Moscow titled *Constructed Situations*. The exhibition will open on November 21, 2019, in the renowned complex S. Maria della Pietà, Venice (Italy).

Constructed Situations explores the process of human alienation from nature and addresses the question of our place in the global ecosystem, only parts of which we can control. To what extent could humans intervene in the evolution process through technology, believing that we can bring logic and control to the ecosystem? Or is this intervention, in fact, evolution? And are all the catastrophic deviations caused by these interventions just another natural step in the ecosystem's development and growth?

The artists create situations or ecosystems while setting in motion their constituent parts without intervening to dictate their behavior. They seek to question the nature of the system's formation and evolution. Their role is to conceive the conditions in which things happen rather than try to invent for invention's sake. They build worlds and watch them play out.

The exhibition will feature video works by **Alexandra Paperno, Tatyana Akhmetgalieva,** and **Margo Trushina.** **Kirill Garshin** will present pieces from his latest *Nocturnal Animals* series ranging in media from oil on canvas and watercolours to mixed media on board. **Vadim de Grainville (Grigoryan)** will show the series of engravings *Spice Orgy*, which has been recently presented at Palais de Tokyo in Paris. **Ilya Fedotov-Fedorov** will create a living

sculpture while **Aljoscha** will work on a large-scale site-specific installation using mixed media and acrylic glass.

According to the philosophers Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer “the source of today's disaster is a pattern of blind domination, domination in a triple sense: the domination of nature by human beings, the domination of nature within human beings, and, in both of these forms of domination, the domination of some human beings by others... In society where culture pursues so-called progress at all costs anything “different,” that which is “other,” whether human or nonhuman, is negated, exploited or exterminated. The basis for this approach is our fear of the unknown. Means are getting ever more devious, and exploitation - ever less straightforward. However, domination persists, enabled by the growing desire to consume in order to put down anxiety and fear for the unknown” (Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer, *Dialectic of Enlightenment*, 1947).

The show is presented by the **City of Moscow** and will run **from November 21 to 26, 2019** to coincide with the closing week of the 58th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia. The exhibition has been organized by Concord and Spirit and Spirit, in partnership with Lightbox and Ca' Foscari University of Venice.

On November 20, 2019, at 4 pm, as part of the exhibition, artist **Vadim de Grainville (Grigoryan)** will give a public talk titled ***Life, Progress, Infinity and the Demise of the first Human Race and its Economical model of Survival*** in Ca' Foscari University of Venice at Aula Mario Baratto.

In his keynote speech, Vadim de Grainville (Grigoryan) will explore the notion of human development and the idea of progress through an unconventional mix of references spanning from philosophy to economical science and from business practices to art. He will engage the public to question the imperative of growth in a world of limited space, time and resources, as an invitation to rethink the concepts of wealth and capital, and their relationship to happiness in individual and common senses.

Vadim de Grainville (Grigoryan) is a distinctive creative director and luxury and culture brand strategist. Born in Baku, he joined Pernod Ricard as marketing director for Russia and Eastern Europe; his success as marketing director prompted a move to Paris as Director of Creativity and Luxury for Pernod Ricard. From Paris he oversaw Absolut's return to the art world after an absence of more than 10 years - arranging collaborations with the prestigious dOCUMENTA (13) and the Venice Biennale. The New York Times named one of Vadim's led projects among the highlights of Art Basel.

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Istituto Santa Maria della Pietà

Castello, 3702, 30122 Venice (VE)

Special collateral event

A public talk by Vadim de Grainville (Grigoryan)

Life, Progress, Infinity and the Demise of the first Human Race and its Economical model of Survival

November 20, 2019, 4 pm

Ca' Foscari University of Venice,

Aula Mario Baratto, Dorsoduro 3246 - 30123, Venice (VE)

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