

Curated by:
Maria Kramar and Karen Sarkisov

Venue:
MMOMA, 10 Gogolevsky Blvd,
bldg. 2, Moscow

Dates:
12 April — 7 June 2017

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V-A-C Foundation presents *Hosting the Inhuman* at the Moscow Museum of Modern Art's (MMOMA) space on Gogolevsky Boulevard. The multidisciplinary project marks the beginning of MMOMA's new programme *Carte Blanche*, which invites art institutions to implement their own curatorial initiatives at MMOMA sites. Bringing together artists, musicians, theorists, scientists and philosophers, *Hosting the Inhuman* investigates the relationship between material objects, non-human forms of life and the environment. It includes an exhibition, film screenings, a series of talks and an extensive programme of live performances.

Dramatic innovations in biology, medicine, engineering and computer science have redefined the way we see ourselves. Modern technology is increasingly reliant upon, and pervaded by, natural imagery and elemental metaphors, from cloud computing to swarm intelligence. Meanwhile, recent developments in the humanities and social sciences, such as new materialism and actor-network theory amongst others, have contributed to a changing focus from the human to the non-human with all its multiple varieties and competing meanings.

Over 30 contributors will examine this shift, exploring the relevance of the non-human within their work. The exhibition takes place in a purpose-built 'hotel' inside MMOMA, representing an exemplary non-place and a space of transience. From a reception and lounge to a boiler room, installations, films, sculptures and paintings will take over the space. A conference hall will provide the stage for weekly talks and live performances, including sound artist and experimental producer Elysia Crampton, musician and co-founder of NON WORLDWIDE Chino Amobi, punk musician Kid Fourteen and doom metal band Nuclear Cthulhu.

Highlights of the exhibition include artist and writer Andrey Shental's installation *A Descent into the Fungal* (2016 - 2017), based around the enigmatic disappearance of a fictional mycologist while testing a device for deciphering and recording the information transmitted by fungi. With *Butterfly* (2017), Alexey Buldakov uses the heat emitted from a processor mining cryptocurrencies to warm the oil in a radiator, providing a new business model for heating the hotel. Other works explore human absence, including the empty landscape of Piero Golia's *Yosemite National Park* (2008). The tapestry is one of few remains from when the artist vanished from New York in January 2006, reappearing in Copenhagen three weeks later, having crossed borders without a trace.

Launching in spring 2017, *Carte Blanche* is a new experimental programme by MMOMA, inviting art institutions to implement their own curatorial initiatives at MMOMA sites. With *Carte Blanche*, MMOMA aims to develop creative dialogue and synergy, strengthening cultural ties between state museums and other institutions. Guest institutions will select the theme, artists and format of the exhibitions they present, opening up new ideas to MMOMA's visitors and giving invited institutions the opportunity to address issues such as the implementation of their projects in a different context and familiarity with new audiences. Building on the activities of the museum, it will further MMOMA's ambition to broaden current perceptions of contemporary art.

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V-A-C Foundation is the first institution to participate and will present four projects which analyse the format of museums and exhibitions, looking at new possibilities as well as existing boundaries and limitations. It will expand on V-A-C's long term programme which explores the role of the contemporary museum.

The participants in the programme include: Chino Amobi, Evgeny Antufiev, Alexey Bogolepov / Egor Rogalev, Vladimir Budanov, Alexey Buldakov, Igor Burtsev, Valery Chtak, Jeffrey Jerome Cohen, Elysia Crampton, Nuclear Cthulhu, Sara Culmann, Vinciane Despret, Dyad & The Sleepers Club, Farhad Farzaliyev, Farhood, Valentin Fetisov, Mikhail Gelfand, Piero Golia, Michael Hampe, Daniel Lefcourt, Kablam, Kepla, Ling, Kid Fourteen, Sergey Konenkov, Mikhail Maksimov, Mårble, Kristina Norman, Ored Recordings, Anastasia Potemkina, Yoel Regev, Lara Sarkissian, Kirill Savchenkov, Andrey Shental, Theater of Mutual Operations, Yves Tumor, Ben Woodard, and Anna Zholud.

Further exhibitions throughout the year in the Carte Blanche programme include: Moscow Diaries, a collaboration between Museum of American Art, Berlin (MoAA, Berlin) and the Centre of Experimental Museology (CEM, Moscow) (15 June—25 August 2017); Kirill Savchenkov: Office of Sensitive Activities, curated by Katerina Chuchalina and Maria Kramar (4 September –10 November 2017); and Vladislav Shapovalov: Image Diplomacy curated by Anna Ilchenko (16 November 2017–25 January 2018).

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V-A-C Foundation is dedicated to the international presentation, production and development of Russian contemporary art — across a multitude of forms and within the framework of an invigorated and informed exhibition, education and publishing programme. Particularly important to the new generation of artists in Russia, V-A-C's focus is on practically supporting and expanding the platform for home-grown talent, giving artists the opportunity to experience, engage with and interrogate international cultural practices whilst developing an authentic and autonomous artistic language. It is deservedly considered as one of the key proponents in opening out contemporary Russian culture to the wider world, and practically supporting and developing emergent artists through finding new international platforms for exhibition and opportunities for commissions as well as ways of encouraging cross-cultural exchange — especially important in the current climate.

Moscow Museum of Modern Art (MMOMA) was founded in 1999. It is the first state Russian museum that concentrates exclusively on the art of the 20th and 21st centuries. Today the Museum, with its five venues in the historic centre of the city, plays a vital part in the Moscow art scene. The Museum's permanent collection represents major stages in the formation and development of the avant-garde, especially in Russia. One of the Museum's priorities is to promote young and emerging artists, bringing them into the contemporary artistic process and to create inclusive projects.



CARTE BLANCHE