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For immediate release

V-A-C Foundation presents:

Paweł Althamer
Anatoly Osmolovsky

Parallel Convergences

1 June – 6 October 2013

Casa dei Tre Oci, Giudecca 43, Venice, Italy (Vaporetto Stop 'Zitelle')

BIENNALE PREVIEW DAYS: 29, 30, 31 MAY, 10AM-6PM

PRESS PREVIEW WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE CURATOR AND THE ARTISTS:

30 MAY, 10AM-1PM

OPENING: 31 MAY, 3-6PM

V-A-C Foundation, a not-for-profit, Moscow-based institution, committed to the international presentation, production and development of Russian Contemporary Art, is proud to present the exhibition *Paweł Althamer and Anatoly Osmolovsky: Parallel Convergences*. This unique project brings together for the first time the work of these artists - one Polish and the other Russian - both of whom are from the generation shaped by the decisive shift from communism to post-communism, experienced in Russia and the Eastern

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Bloc in the early 1990s, and whose work shares many interesting parallels. The exhibition pairs Althamer with Osmolovsky in a fluid conversation that acknowledges the differences between their works as well as the many similarities and overlaps. Despite the different forms and media they adopt - ranging from sculpture, installation and video, to more politically engaged actions and social forms of practice – the work of both artists often pivots around the idea of the body and modes of perception.

Paweł Althamer (b. 1967, Warsaw) will be represented by works that embody some of the central concerns tackled in his work: collaboration, self-portraiture and the centrality of subjective human experience. Althamer's major video cycle *So-called Waves and Other Phenomena of the Mind* from 2003-4, an eight-screen installation of short films made in collaboration with the Polish artist Artur Zmijewski, will be shown in its entirety. The videos document Althamer's experiments with an array of mind-altering substances, ranging from hashish, LSD and magic mushrooms to peyote and truth serum, while also exploring hypnosis and the varying psychological states engendered by all of these means. Consciousness, rather than an altered conscious *per se*, is enacted in one of the videos titled *Weronika* (2004), which chronicles, in graphic but objective detail, the birth of the artist's daughter. The video then jumps forward several years to father and daughter playing in a park together and the way in which seeing things anew through her eyes transforms Althamer's perception and understanding of the world around him, and through which the quotidian and mundane become marvellous. Althamer will also present a large-scale new bronze cast of the work *Parys*, which continues the investigation into monumental and statuesque forms of the human body that has spanned his career.

Anatoly Osmolovsky (b. 1969, Moscow) will be considered in the exhibition by a survey of his work in all media dating from the early 1990s until now, most of which have seldom been seen outside Russia. Osmolovsky began his career in the (then) Soviet Union as a writer in the late 1980s and staged a series of confrontational political performances in Moscow as the leader of the E.T.I. (Экспроприация Территории Искусства - Art Territory Expropriation) movement. Most of his production in those years was characterised by collective participation, working closely with the members of the Radek Community, who saw art as a tool for protest. These important actions will be represented in the exhibition through a series of films and documentary photographs. In 1995, Osmolovsky founded

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Radek magazine, a Russian journal that put forward a politically radical and intellectually wide-ranging agenda, during the rise of Eastern Europe's period of 'wild capitalism'. By the early 2000s, Osmolovsky once again began to consider the more formal aspects of his art practice. Osmolovsky's move into sculpture over the last decade or so will be examined in the exhibition through a series of major works such as *Hardware* and *Breads*, which manifest his radical shift towards investigating the vexed legacy of both Russian icons and the early-twentieth century *avant-garde*. New works by Osmolovsky that have not previously been exhibited will also be presented.

Althamer and Osmolovsky will also collaborate together on a new sculptural work for the V-A-C exhibition, which will evolve through an exchange of ideas between the two artists.

Pawel Althamer and Anatoly Osmolovsky: Parallel Convergences is curated by Nicholas Cullinan, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

V-A-C Foundation supports as donor the 55th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

A fully illustrated catalogue will be produced to accompany the exhibition.

V-A-C 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 educational 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 emerging 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.

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Notes to Editors:

- **Full Artist/Curator biogs available on request**
- **About V-A-C Foundation**

V-A-C Foundation is a non-for-profit private institution founded in Moscow in 2009 and committed to supporting contemporary art in Russia. Our 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. We 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.

www.v-a-c.ru
- **About Casa dei Tre Oci**

Casa dei Tre Oci was designed by the artist Mario De Maria (Marius Pictor) and built in 1913. It is a splendid example of early 20th century Neo-Gothic Venetian architecture and was officially recognized as a building of historic and artistic interest by the Direzione Regionale per i Beni Culturali e Paesaggistici del Veneto in 2007. Bought by Fondazione di Venezia in 2000, following careful restoration, it became a public exhibition space showcasing contemporary art with particular attention on photography. Known as one of Venice's major landmarks, for decades Casa dei Tre Oci has hosted artists taking part in the Biennale as well as famous figures from around the world such as Vittore Grubicy, Hundertwasser, Peggy Guggenheim, Sciltian, Morandi, Fontana, Dario Fo' and Renzo Piano. The Casa dei Tre Oci exhibition space is run by Civita Tre Venezia in association with Veneto Banca.

Full Address: Casa dei Tre Oci, Giudecca 43, Venice, Italy (Vaporetto Stop "Zitelle")

Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday, 10.00 – 18.00 (free admission)
- **About the 55th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia**

The 55th International Art Exhibition will take place in Venice from 1 June to 24 November 2013 at the Giardini and at the Arsenale (Preview: 29, 30 and 31 May 2013), as well as in various venues throughout the city, and will be curated by Massimiliano Gioni. *The Encyclopedic Palace* is the title chosen.

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