

Carte Blanche

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MMOMA announced today the launch of a new programme, Carte Blanche, inviting art institutions to implement their own curatorial initiatives at MMOMA sites. Launching in April 2017, V-A-C Foundation is delighted to be the first institution to participate.

With Carte Blanche, MMOMA aims to develop creative dialogue and synergy, strengthening cultural ties between state museums and other institutions. Building on the activities of the museum, it will further MMOMA's ambition to broaden current perceptions of contemporary art. 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. The new programme took inspiration from a Palais de Tokyo (Paris) series of the same title, featuring an annual intervention by an invited artist in their exhibition space.

From April 2017, V-A-C Foundation will present five projects over the year, which relate to the question 'What is an exhibition?'. Art galleries and museums today come in a multitude of formats with a host of diverse activities. The analysis of new possibilities as well as existing boundaries and limitations is vital to institutional development. V-A-C and MMOMA aim to have an open discussion on this subject with the professional community and with the museum's audiences.

The opening exhibition will take place from 5 April – 7 June 2017, curated by Maria Kramar and Karen Sarkisov, at MMOMA's space on Gogol Boulevard, Building 10, Moscow. The multidisciplinary project is dedicated to the study of the relationship between material objects, non-human forms of life and the environment. It brings together artists, musicians, theorists, practitioners, scientists and philosophers, and will include an exhibition, a discussion and performance space, a library and a publication.

The participants in the programme include: Evgeny Antufiev, Alexey Buldakov, Nuclear Cthulhu, Sara Culmann, Farhad Farzaliyev, Valentin Fetisov, Daniel Lefcourt, Mikhail Maksimov, Sasha Manik, Kirill Savchenkov, Anastasia Potemkina, and Andrey Shental amongst others.

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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.

The Moscow Museum of Modern Art was founded by Zurab Tsereteli, President of the Russian Academy of Arts. 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 the major stages in the formation and development of the avant-garde, especially in Russia. Many works have been acquired from European and American galleries and auction houses, and thus returned from abroad to form an integral part of Russia's cultural legacy. An extensive section of the permanent display is devoted to Non-Conformist art of the 1960s–1980s. Apart from expanding the permanent collection and organising multiple temporary exhibitions each year, the Museum engages in various other activities, including research and conservation work, book publishing, an educational centre and others. One of the Museum's priorities is to promote young and emerging artists, bringing them into the contemporary artistic process - so the Museum has The School of Contemporary Art Free Workshops.

