



*General Rehearsal, Act 3:
No-One's*

26 April – 16 September 2018

MMOMA, Petrovka, 25
Moscow, Russia

Open 12 – 9pm
Closed on Monday

V-A-C Communications Director:

Helen Weaver
helen.weaver@v-a-c.ru
t. +44 (0) 7772 159219

Press office / images:

Matilde Biagi
matilde.biagi@v-a-c.ru

For Russian media:

Alexander Belyakov
alexander.belyakov@v-a-c.ru
t. +7 (925) 276 03 06

Nonna Gazeava
nonna.gazeava@v-a-c.ru
t. +7 (903) 218 30 00

Philipp Mironov
philipp.mironov@v-a-c.ru
t. +7 (903) 743 44 43

v-a-c@v-a-c.ru
www.v-a-c.ru

GENERAL REHEARSAL, ACT 3: NO-ONE'S

What would happen if instead of merely selecting objects of art from a wide variety of options (celebrated, important, obvious works that have already become part of a respected art collection), we joined them together with a number of objects that, to a casual observer, have no artistic, historical or sentimental value?

Maria Stepanova in *No-one's*

V-A-C Foundation and Moscow Museum of Modern Art present the Third (and final) Act of *General Rehearsal*.

On 27 July 2018, scenes from Chekhov's *The Seagull* staged by the Theatre of Mutual Operations in the First Act, philosopher Armen Avanessian's discourse on time and modernity in the Second Act (*Metaphysics from the Future*), will give way to *No-one's* — an essay by poet and writer Maria Stepanova, which continues the research of how objects can be seen as agents in our world.

No-one's is a production about biographies, functionality and the status of things and objects. It is a play about objects rather than about their owners. The writer encourages us to reflect on which of the myriad of things and artworks around us catch our attention and why. What does it mean to be a museum piece or be incorporated into another assemblage, such as an exhibition or a collection? Who arranges objects into compositions for us to view, and why? How do we perceive and decipher them? These are the questions Maria Stepanova poses in the Third Act of *General Rehearsal*, by adding the objects that tell her own history to the works by Warhol, Bourgeois, Manzoni and over 150 other artists.

Stepanova builds a conversation between her personal items and artworks, while some of the featured artists, such as Simon Starling, Vadim Sidur and Christopher Williams, also focus on scrutinising the life stories of objects and works from different eras and places. Furthermore, a look through the new lens suggested by Stepanova aims to help institutions review their collections, reinterpret art objects and extend and refine object biographies. And this is one of the main goals of *General Rehearsal* — exploring how context impacts the role of an artwork.

The third and final act of *General Rehearsal* summarises many of the threads that have been set in motion by the project. The consideration of the biography of things by Stepanova completes the invitation for artworks to be actors in a play for Act 1, and the meditation on artworks as proposals for future thinking performed in Act 2. This complex investigation into collecting and exhibiting has brought to the fore how artworks are living organism changing and mutating their meaning and role across time.

PUBLIC PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

August, 4 — *Silent Mist* premiere and discussion with director Zhang Miaoyan and media researcher Dmitry Golynko-Wolfson.

August, 10 — concert by Shiva Feshareki the UK radio host, experimental composer, DJ and researcher into the European and Middle Eastern musical heritage.



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August, 11 — *Liquid Sky* restored version premiere and online-discussion with director Slava Tsukerman.

August, 18 — *No intenso agora* premiere. Participant of the Berlinale and Doclisboa as well as film festivals in Chicago, Vienna and Buenos Aires. Cinéma du Réel prize winner (2017).

August, 22, 29 and September, 5, 12 — Series of talks *Dictionary of Today* (Faculty of Mediation): specialists from various fields will help exhibition visitors to look at the situation from a different angle and find keys to understanding contemporary artists through the prism of their own professional experience.

August, 26 — a meeting with Dmitry Volkostrelov, the founder and head of *theater post*, will focus on texts from Maria Stepanova's book, *In Memory of Memory*, and their possible realisation on the stage.

August, 30 — a masterclass with Todor Todoroff, composer, engineer and president of the Belgian Electroacoustic Music Federation, who will talk about his creative process and the electroacoustic scene in Belgium today.

August, 31 — a concert by the British post-minimalist, Philip Jeck, who has worked with Gavin Bryers and has many years of virtuoso experience mixing acoustics and electronics.

September, 6 — The director, artist and stage designer Dmitry Krymov will talk about the new life of plays that are no longer in the repertoire, notably in the space of a museum, and how theater can give a new, modern twist to classical works.

September, 10, 11, 12 — *Double*, a performance by Alexandra Sukhareva. The work uses uranium and water hyacinth, while the main hero is an artificially designed ecosystem with its own peculiar intercommunications.

September, 14 — *Sweeping the Kokako Spell*, a theatrical performance by the Georgian-American artist Sergei Tcherepnin, participant of the Venice Biennale and the Whitney Biennale.

The public program will also include series of meetings of a self-run group and guided exhibition tours on Saturdays and Sundays.

For the full programme of activities, please see genreh.ru



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NOTES FOR EDITORS

General Rehearsal is a meta-disciplinary experiment, which applies theatrical elements to displaying art. The show unfolds at MMOMA's Petrovka venue over five months — from April to September 2018. The top floor of the building is designed as a storage space or a green room, where nearly 200 artworks from the collections of V-A-C, MMOMA and KADIST wait before going on stage. The museum's middle floor gallery is the stage, where artworks get to be actors in a theatrical production. The *General Rehearsal* project has been conceived to test and establish a new methodology, which would transcend boundaries between static and dynamic arts, to promote collaboration between art institutions and to invite members of the audience to co-create with professional curators.

General Rehearsal curatorial group from V-A-C and MMOMA: Elza Abdulkhakova, Kirill Adibekov, Katerina Chuchalina, Maria Doronina, Diana Dzhangveladze, Varvara Ganicheva, Anna Ilchenko, Daria Kalugina, Maria Kramar, Francesco Manacorda, Anna Panfilets, Andrey Parshikov, Anna Repina-Galenkina, Olga Stebleva, Polina Zotova.

Guest Curator: Émilie Villez (Director of KADIST, Paris).
genreh.ru

V-A-C

V-A-C produces new culture together with artists and audiences alike. It is a platform for open discussion aimed at redefining the contemporary landscape. Working with local communities, V-A-C promotes its exhibition, publishing, performative and learning programmes beyond all disciplinary boundaries and thus constantly resets the coordinates for dialogue within a new global geography. This methodology is employed in all V-A-C initiatives, taking place in its Venetian space, through international, cross-institutional partnerships and in its future home for arts and culture in Moscow, GES-2.
v-a-c.ru

MMOMA

Moscow Museum of Modern Art (MMOMA) was founded in 1999. It is the first state Russian museum that concentrates on the art of the 20th and 21st centuries. Today the Museum, with its seven venues in the historic centre of the city, plays a vital part in the Russian 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.
mmoma.ru

KADIST

We believe contemporary artists make an important contribution to a progressive society, their work often addressing key issues of our time. KADIST is a non-profit organization that encourages this engagement and is dedicated to extending the reach of artists represented in its collection to a global audience, thus facilitating new connections across cultures. Its programs develop collaborations with artists, curators and many art organizations around the world. Local programs in KADIST's hubs of Paris and San Francisco include exhibitions, public events, residencies and

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educational initiatives. Complemented by an active online network, they aim at creating vibrant conversations about contemporary art and ideas.

kadist.org

KADIST

Maria Stepanova is a poet and writer. She has worked as Editor-in-Chief at OpenSpace.ru (2008 – 2012) and currently holds the same position at Colta.ru (from 2012). She is the author of ten books of poetry, including *Prose and Poetry* (2010), *Spolia* (2015), *Against the Lyric Poetry* (2017) as well as collections of essays *Alone, Not Alone, Not Me* (2014), *Three Notes on Current Situation* (2015) and a book of philosophical prose *In Memory of Memory* (2017). She has won several Russian and international literary prizes.

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