

V—A—C



General Rehearsal, Act 2:  
'Metaphysics from the Future'

26 April – 16 September 2018

MMOMA, Petrovka, 25  
Moscow, Russia

Open 12 – 9pm  
Closed on Monday

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## GENERAL REHEARSAL, ACT 2: 'METAPHYSICS FROM THE FUTURE'

V-A-C Foundation and Moscow Museum of Modern Art (MMOMA) present the Second Act of *General Rehearsal*, written by Austrian philosopher Armen Avanesian.

On 21 June, 2018 MMOMA's Petrovka Street venue present the second act of *General Rehearsal*, a cross-disciplinary project conceived and realised by V-A-C Foundation and Moscow Museum of Modern Art. Almost 200 works of art, 16 curators, 3 collections, 3 floors, 5 months.

*This may well be the most comprehensive — ... encompassing works from modernism to very recent years — exhibition yet in Moscow.*  
Igor Grebelnikov,  
published in *Kommersant* newspaper on 5 May 2018

*This project is a humungous team effort, we have been working together with MMOMA and our guest curator from KADIST Émilie Villez. For us it is literally a dress rehearsal — getting ready for the launch of GES-2 ... — this is an opportunity to put into practice the machinery of coordination and communication between various works, statements, formats, people, institutions and genres.*  
Maria Kramar,  
Curator at V-A-C Foundation

The script for the First Act was written by the Theatre of Mutual Operations, a theatre collective of Shifra Kazhdan, Ksenia Peretrkhina, Lyosha Lobanov and Alexandra Moon. Based on Chekhov's *The Seagull*, the first script featured the story's well-known characters played by major works of art selected from three major international collections: V-A-C, MMOMA and KADIST.

*I am not sure whether it makes sense to define it as a stage production or an exhibition. Ultimately it is an cross-confessional work.*  
Ksenia Peretrkhina, Theatre of Mutual Operations

### THE SECOND ACT: 'METAPHYSICS FROM THE FUTURE'

In the second act, the Austrian philosopher, literary and political theorist Armen Avanesian explores key philosophical issues for the future, which are: 'Why metaphysics?, Substance and Accident, Form and Matter, Life and Death, the Human, Time, Thinking (truth), Reality and Realism, Institutions, Politics and Speculation'. He has orchestrated a series of 11 scenes corresponding to the chapters of a book he will potentially write in the aftermath of this commission. As the act unfolds in the 11 rooms of the museum's main gallery, the selected artworks and their interaction bring into question the traditional concepts that have structured Western thinking from the perspective of the present.

### ARMEN AVANESSIAN

*Armen Avanesian has been invited to script the second act of General Rehearsal because of his interest in the future and fictions. His approach*

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*proposes speculation – as in formulating hypothesis of future conditions to guide our actions in the present – as a way to get better in touch with reality. His theory uses fiction and imagination of future scenarios in the same ways as artists from different disciplines have in the last decade.*

Francesco Manacorda, Artistic Director at  
V-A-C Foundation

*General Rehearsal* is a journey through three art collections, discovering new ways of reading them and challenging the more conventional methods of displaying art: some artworks have been cast in both Chekhov's play and Avanesian's production (for example, *Costume di Anako* by Alighiero Boetti), while others are making their stage debut in act 2 (for example, Wolfgang Tillmans' *The State We're In*, some works by Louise Bourgeois and Andy Warhol's *Jackie*).

#### PUBLIC PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

On 22 June, the Russian experimental music ensemble KYMATIC will perform *The Sinking of the Titanic* (1969) by British composer Gavin Bryars;

On 29 June, Canadian artist Myriam Bleau will perform her piece *Soft Revolvers* – an audiovisual project of her own design and composition;

On 20 July, British musician Matthew Bourne will perform a solo piano concert;

On 21 July, the Claude Lanzmann film *Napalm* (2017) will be screened;

On Tuesdays meetings of the phonogroup will be led by music critic and journalist Alexey Munipov, who will introduce the audience to critically acclaimed recordings of contemporary academic and experimental music. A variety of Russian composers and performers will also join in the weekly discussions: Vladimir Gorlinsky, Grigory Krotenko, Dmitry Kurlyandsky, Dmitry Mazurov, Alexei Sysoyev, Nikolay Khrust;

The children's programme will include master-classes and a course in electronic music, as well as guided exhibition tours on Saturdays and Sundays.

For the full programme of activities, please see [genreh.ru](http://genreh.ru)

#### AGAIN, MORE STORIES

*Again, More Stories* is an online project that will run parallel to the Second Act. The platform will offer resources related to *General Rehearsal*, such as featured artworks, performances, various texts and videos, and enable visitors to make up their own exhibition routes for the show and add their own interpretations, making visitors additional authors of the *General Rehearsal* project.

The Third (and final) Act will begin on 27 July. This time poet and writer Maria Stepanova will be responsible for the storyline.

*General Rehearsal has the potential to actually prove that such an anti-hierarchical approach to art is not a utopia, but a gateway to the new world.*  
Alexey Kiselev in 'New Horizontals' article in *Esquire*, 24 April 2018

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## NOTES FOR EDITORS

*General Rehearsal* is a multi-disciplinary project designed by V-A-C Foundation in collaboration with Moscow Museum of Modern Art. The project rethinks traditional ways of exhibiting art and interacting with audiences. *General Rehearsal* draws from the collections of V-A-C, MMOMA and the Paris and San Francisco based KADIST Foundation. Displayed over three floors of the MMOMA venue in the centre of Moscow, the project proposes considering artworks as actors in a play, taking on different roles in the three acts. Visitors are met with Mike Nelson's *Again, More Things (a Table Ruin)* (2014) on the ground floor, a storage space or rather a dressing room for the potential performers on the top floor, and the main exhibition space – the stage and ballroom – in the middle.

*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](http://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, GES2.  
[v-a-c.ru](http://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](http://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

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

[kadist.org](http://kadist.org)

KADIST

Armen Avanesian (born 1973) is a philosopher and a literary and political theorist. Based in Berlin, he is editor-at-large at *Merve Verlag* publishing house and is in charge of the theory program at *Volksbühne*. He is also co-founder of the bilingual research platform *Spekulative Poetik* and of the *Bureau of Cultural Strategies*. Many of his books have been published in English and his book written with Anke Hennig, *A Poetics of Present Tense*, has also been translated and published in Russian. Avanesian was also guest editor-in-chief of *Logos No 2 2018 Accelerationism* issue of *Logos* journal (2018).

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