

HAYWARD GALLERY PROJECT SPACE PRESENTS A GROUP EXHIBITION BY SIX CONTEMPORARY RUSSIAN ARTISTS

Burning News: Recent Art from Russia

Hayward Gallery Project Space

Admission Free

24 September – 9 November 2014

Private View: 24 September, 6.30–8.30pm

While significant political, social and cultural changes are occurring on a daily basis around the world, *Burning News* considers their effects in Russia, a country that is frequently the focus of international attention. This exhibition brings together six emerging artists, many of whom have never exhibited in London, who explore the complex social and political landscape of their homeland. In video works, photography and sculpture made between 2011 and 2013, these artists capture the *genius loci* of Russia, its 'spirit of place'.

From the edges of Moscow's ring road to the interior of the State Library, these artists locate their work in the places, objects and stories that reveal the continuing challenges of modernity. They make reference to anthropology, dance, literature and architecture and raise questions about equality, conflict and the possibility of an active social position. If the work of Mikhail Maksimov expresses a hope that a personal effort can change the world, Evgeny Granilshchikov's video bears witness to the futility of any activist position. The characters depicted and objects displayed in the exhibition often embody a psychological tension that occasionally erupts in uncanny performance, transgression or physical violence. Together, the artworks presented in *Burning News* offer a diversity of perspectives from within a country where free expression has come under increasing restrictions.

Burning News features work by Aslan Gaisumov, Evgeny Granilshchikov, Mikhail Maksimov, Tim Parchikov, Sasha Pirogova and Dimitri Venkov.

Works presented in the exhibition include:

- **Tim Parchikov, *Burning News*, 2011** – Tim Parchikov's crisply shot photographic series *Burning News* captures subjects in winter landscapes, reading newspapers engulfed by flames. A reflection on the ubiquity of inflammatory news stories, Parchikov's photographs picture a critical saturation point in the reader's consciousness. Parchikov was awarded the Kandinsky Prize in 2013 in the category of Young Artist of the Year.
- **Dimitri Venkov, *Mad Mimes*, 2012** – Awarded the prestigious Kandinsky Prize category of Project of the Year in 2012, *Mad Mimes* is a fictional documentary following a tribe living alongside a Moscow motorway, surviving on discarded scraps and performing absurd rituals in the hope of gaining material riches. Riffing off classic works of cultural anthropology, the film's dark humour belies its social critique.
- **Evgeny Granilshchikov, *Positions*, 2013** – *Positions*, a three-channel video installation, charts the changing relationships of a trio of young political activists. As the characters

separately question the artist's role in a troubled society, their narratives weave together across the three projections. *Positions* was awarded the 2013 Kandinsky Prize in the New Generation category.

- **Mikhail Maksimov, *Barriers*, 2011** – An interactive installation combining video and digital animation with three-dimensional sculpture, *Barriers* encourages viewers to participate in transgressing virtual fences barring their access to public space. The tactile element of the artwork aims to connect interactivity with direct action.
- **Aslan Gaisumov, five works from the series *Untitled (War)*, 2011–2013** – Gaisumov mines collective experience of recent conflict in his native homeland, the Chechen Republic, through his art. In the series *Untitled (War)*, books bear the physical traces of this trauma, with their bindings variously sawn into, hollowed out and cratered. Gaisumov participated in the 5th Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art.
- **Sasha Pirogova, *BIBLIMLEN*, 2013** – Awarded the 2013 Innovation Prize in the New Generation category, *BIBLIMLEN* takes a filmic journey through the Russian State Library in Moscow. Fusing contemporary dance and performance, Pirogova re-imagines the library and its public and private spaces as sites of romance, subversion and unexpected encounters.

Burning News is organised by the Multimedia Art Museum, Moscow, and curated by Olga Sviblova, MAMM Director, in collaboration with the Hayward Gallery.

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Notes to Editors:

Listings Information:

Burning News: Recent Art from Russia

Hayward Gallery Project Space

24 September – 9 November 2014

Admission Free

Monday, 12 noon – 6pm

Tuesday – Sunday, 11am – 7pm

Thursday and Friday until 8pm

Visitor information: <http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk>

Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London, SE1 8XX

About Hayward Gallery:

Hayward Gallery has a long history of presenting work by the world's most adventurous and innovative artists. Opened by Her Majesty, The Queen in 1968, the gallery is one of the few remaining buildings of its style. It was designed by a group of young architects, including Dennis Crompton, Warren Chalk and Ron Herron. Hayward Gallery is named after the late Sir Isaac Hayward, the former leader of the London County Council.

Hayward Gallery has gained an international reputation for staging major solo shows by both emerging and established artists and dynamic group exhibitions in its 46 year history. The forthcoming Hayward Gallery exhibition is *MIRRORCITY: London Artists on Fiction and Reality*. Key exhibitions throughout Hayward Gallery's history have included those by Martin Creed, Antony Gormley, Tracey Emin, Andy Warhol, Ed Ruscha, Jeremy Deller, Anish Kapoor, Rene Magritte, Frances Bacon and David Shrigley, as well as influential group exhibitions such as *Africa Remix*, *Light Show* and *Psycho Buildings*.

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 21-acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and the Hayward Gallery as well as The Saison Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. For further information please visit www.southbankcentre.co.uk.

About the Multimedia Art Museum, Moscow

The Multimedia Art Museum, Moscow (original title: Moscow House of Photography) was established in 1996. It was the first Russian museum devoted to the art of photography and new media. MAMM sees its principal goal as encouraging the development of Russian photography and multimedia art-technology as well as helping the public to get acquainted with the best achievements of international contemporary art. MAMM owns the largest collection of historic and contemporary Russian photography, as well as a comprehensive collection of Russian video. In recent years exhibitions based on the museum's collection have been held at the Hayward Gallery (London), Martin-Gropius-Bau (Berlin), Fotomuseum Winterthur, Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea (Turin), Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, Foam (Amsterdam), and many others. The Rodchenko School of Photography and Multimedia was established in 2006 as a structural unit of MAMM. Its 3-year teaching programme is based on the experience of leading international art institutions and Russian avant-garde tradition. Among the school's professors are renowned Russian artists, participants in prestigious international exhibitions such as the Venice Biennale and Documenta. Students and graduates of the Rodchenko School have received numerous Russian and international prizes.

About Olga Sviblova:

Olga Sviblova is the Director of the Multimedia Art Museum, Moscow. She has held this position since 1996, the year she founded the (original title: Moscow House of Photography) as and has since overseen the acquisition of more than 80,000 photographs of Russian life, from daguerreotypes to contemporary digital images. In 2001, Sviblova spearheaded the museum's expansion beyond photography to preserve all forms of multimedia art technology. Sviblova has curated numerous international exhibitions and festivals. Notably, she curated the Russian Pavilion at the 2007 and 2009 Venice Biennales. Sviblova has also written and directed a number of award-winning documentaries, including: *Dina Verni*; *In Search of Happy Ending*; *Black Square* about Russian Underground Art from 1953 to 1988. In 2006, Sviblova was the winner of the First Government Award in Actual Arts "Innovation" as the best curator of the year. Sviblova earned her Ph.D. in psychology at Moscow State University.

The Kandinsky Prize is the only non-state funded prize in the field of contemporary art in Russia and was modeled after the Turner Prize.