

Fourth Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art - Rewriting Worlds

Festival: 23 Sep – 30 Oct 2011

On September 22, the Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art opens its fourth edition. Titled "Rewriting Worlds," it will run until October 30 and features 64 artists and 14 groups of artists from more 33 countries. The Moscow Biennale will be curated by Peter Weibel, Director of the Center for Art and Media (ZKM) in Karlsruhe, Germany. As in previous editions, Joseph Backstein, is the commissioner.

The main project will be located at two venues — the ArtPlay Design Center, and the TSUM Art Foundation, both in central Moscow. There will also be 6 special guests, as well as 69 special projects and parallel program at different venues. The Biennale expands its geographic boundaries beyond Moscow, with special projects planned in Yekaterinburg, Nizhny Novgorod, Kiev, and London.

The Moscow Biennale is Russia's most prestigious contemporary art event. It is supported by the Ministry of Culture of Russian Federation, Moscow city government, ROSIZO State Museum and Exhibition Center, and the Moscow Biennale Art Foundation.

"Peter Weibel is a specialist in new media," said commissioner Joseph Backstein. "Unlike the contents and style of the main project of the Third Biennale, this year's exhibition will show different approaches to how media can be used in the contemporary artistic process, as well as types of art that are deliberately critical of the role of technology and media in the life of modern civilization."

“Rewriting Worlds” proclaims that art is a sphere where new things are unceasingly generated, and contemporary artists rewrite the world as it exists around them by conveying new ideas and viewpoints in their artistic work. Peter Weibel believes that the exhibition’s main goal is “to demonstrate different levels of artistic thought — technological, political and psychological.”

Toward this goal, Peter Weibel invited the following artists to take part in the main project: Kader Attia, Chen Chieh-jen, EVOL, Claire Fontaine, Susan Hiller, Rebecca Horn, Manabu Ikeda, Shilpa Gupta, Armin Linke, Fabian Marcaccio, Neo Rauch, Rosangela Renno, Timo Toots, Ai Weiwei, Guido Van der Werve, and many others.

“We won’t exclude any form of artistic expression,” said Weibel. “That is exactly what I wanted to talk about — ‘technological fairness’. We do not reject painting, nor do we reject new media technology. The Biennale will show painting but in a rather uncommon form. Works created on a computer are just another artistic practice and have the right to exist, too. Therefore, the Biennale should be an exhibition where all techniques are given fair and equal treatment — new media as well as objects, sculptures and installations.”

Russian artists will have an active part in the Biennale, exhibiting works by the Blue Soup group, Electroboutique group, Learning Film group, as well as artists Valery Chtak, Alina Gutkina, Olga Kisseleva, Taisiya Korotkova, Taus Makhacheva, Yelena Yelagina and Igor Makarevich and others.