March 8–May 26, 2019

This spring, Garage Museum of Contemporary Art presents the first solo exhibition in Russia of Rasheed Araeen (b. 1935, Karachi, Pakistan), presenting six decades of work by the seminal practitioner who has had a profound influence on generations of artists, writers, and thinkers around the world.

Known for his strident critique of the ideological and political assumptions of Western modernism, Araeen trained as an engineer in Karachi, before moving to London in 1964 in pursuit of an artistic career. There, he first became known as a pioneering sculptor and installation artist in the (then) emerging field of minimalism, receiving the prestigious John Moores Prize for sculpture in 1969.

Against the tumultuous background of financial crisis and increasing hostility to immigrants in the 1970s, Araeen's art took a sharp political turn, addressing head-on the problems of Britain's institutional racism both outside and within the art world. He began writing extensively in 1975, and in 1977 presented a multimedia work, *Paki Bastard*, that conflated performance, film, and sound. A year later, he initiated *Black Phoenix*, a publication on Black art in Britain, and started using Urdu—his native language—as part of his work addressing decolonization and the complex identity of a Commonwealth artist.

In the 1980s Araeen established his first institutional structures, Project MRB (1982), Kala Press, and Black Umbrella (1984) which defined itself as the AfroAsian Peoples’ Visual Arts Resource & Information Centre. Primarily self-funded, this is the name under which Araeen has since developed his expanded practice, including the ground-breaking journal, *Third Text*, which he established in 1987. The artist also began curating in the 1980s, most notably *The Other Story* (1989) at the Hayward Gallery, with 24 British African, Caribbean, and Asian artists. In this exhibition Araeen articulated a sentiment that he has been championing his entire career: that until Black artists are written into the canon of art history on the basis of their contribution to modernism, there is no common ground from which to tell—or analyze—the story of postwar art.

The last five years have seen a world-wide reappraisal of Araeen’s work, including large-scale projects at Documenta 14 in Kassel and Athens, and the Venice Biennial (both 2017), as well as the Sharjah Art Foundation (2014) and Tate Modern (2013) and spaces in Sao Paolo (2016), Dubai and Hong Kong (2015), Karachi (2014), and Peru (2013).

*A Retrospective* is the first comprehensive survey of Araeen’s work, revealing the scope of the artist’s expanded artistic practice, from his early experiments in painting in Karachi and groundbreaking minimalist sculptures in London, to key political pieces from the 1970s and 1980s—including his pioneering writing, editorial, and curatorial projects—as well as a selection of his new geometric paintings and wall structures.

Especially for Garage, Araeen will develop an Atrium Commission, producing a sculpture he first envisaged in 1968. In a gesture that puts the artist in dialogue with the glorious and troubled history of the Russian avant-garde, *Homage to Tatlin* directly references Vladimir Tatlin’s *Monument to the 3rd International*, suggesting a kinship of non-Western modernities.
In parallel with the exhibition Garage is producing a compendium of Araeen’s texts, which will be available in Russian for the first time. Overseen by the artist, the selection spans several decades of polemic writing and includes key works, such as “Preliminary Notes for a Black Manifesto” (1975–1976) and “Ecoaesthetics: A Manifesto for the Twenty-First Century” (2008–2010).

The exhibition was first presented at the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven and tours to MAMCO, Geneva and BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead.

At Garage, A Retrospective is curated by Nick Aikens (Van Abbemuseum) in collaboration with Kate Fowle, Iaroslav Volovod, and Valentin Diaconov.

GARAGE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Garage Museum of Contemporary Art is a place for people, art, and ideas to create history. Through an extensive program of exhibitions, events, education, research, and publishing, the institution reflects on current developments in Russian and international culture, creating opportunities for public dialogue, as well as the production of new work and ideas in Moscow. At the center of all these activities is the Museum’s collection, which is the first archive in the country related to the development of Russian contemporary art from the 1950s through the present. Founded in 2008 by Dasha Zhukova and Roman Abramovich, Garage is the first philanthropic organization in Russia to create a comprehensive public mandate for contemporary art and culture. Open seven days a week, it was initially housed in the renowned Bakhtemevsky Bus Garage in Moscow, designed by the Constructivist architect Konstantin Melnikov. In 2012 Garage relocated to a temporary pavilion in Gorky Park, specifically commissioned from award-winning architect Shigeru Ban. A year later, a purpose-built Education Center was opened next to the Pavilion. On June 12, 2015, Garage welcomed visitors to its first permanent home. Designed by Rem Koolhaas and his OMA studio, this groundbreaking preservation project transformed the famous Vremena Goda (Seasons of the Year) Soviet Modernist restaurant, built in 1968 in Gorky Park, into a contemporary museum.

Garage is a non-profit project of The IRIS Foundation.

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UNIQLO

UNIQLO designs functional, innovative, and affordable apparel. The LifeWear line’s DNA is high quality, simplicity, longevity, and trendiness regardless of a person’s lifestyle or style.

As part of the strategic partnership between UNIQLO and Garage, a series of special events and activities are held. Garage and UNIQLO has launched UNIQLO Free Friday Nights, continuing the tradition of free admission for all visitors every Friday evening at such key art institutions as MoMa in New York and Tate in London. Garage visitors can enjoy free admission to all exhibitions every Friday between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Garage Lounge Zone opened at the UNIQLO Atrium store, Moscow, in 2017. Customers can immerse themselves in the art world with books and magazines about art, fashion, and...
contemporary culture. The zone is also a space for free lectures and master classes, as well as special projects by Garage.

PIK GROUP

PIK is the largest real estate development company in Russia. Constructing modern and comfortable homes, it sets a new standard for architecture and quality of life. PIK is known for clean, minimalist design with a few bright accents. Inviting emerging architecture studios to design its facades, and combining their input with its own technical expertise, the company offers new solutions for urban construction.

As partners, PIK and Garage will join forces and expertise to create public spaces that will be comfortable and interesting for all visitors. When they buy a new home, PIK customers will receive a free GARAGE card that will grant them free priority admission to Garage’s exhibitions and special events, as well as discounts at Garage café and Bookshop for one year. Garage visitors will be able to take part in events organised with PIK’s support.

INGOSSTRAKH

Ingosstrakh has been a major player in both the Russian and international markets since 1947. The company is the national leader in Russia based on total insurance premiums in the voluntary insurance sector (not including life insurance). Ingosstrakh is authorized to handle all types of insurance services (in accordance with the insurance company's specialization) specified in Article 32.9 of the Insurance Law of the Russian Federation, as well as reinsurance services. For many years, Ingosstrakh has provided insurance services for important works of art and other valuable historical objects. The company has 149 locations throughout Russia, as well as branches and subsidiaries worldwide.

Ingosstrakh is the Official Insurance Partner of Garage Museum of Contemporary Art for the second year running. For Ingosstrakh, the partnership with Garage is an important stage in expanding cooperation with leading museums in Russia and across the world. The company insures the artworks exhibited and, jointly with the Museum, implements a wide range of special programs for visitors.

BMW GROUP RUSSIA

BMW Group has had a presence in the art world for many years thanks to its BMW Art Car project that lists artists like Andy Warhol, Jeff Koons, Roy Lichtenstein, Frank Stella, and César Manrique among its participants. Since racing driver and art enthusiast Hervé Poulain invited Alexander Calder to paint the first car in 1975, some of the world’s biggest artists have created nineteen unique designs based on the company’s models. BMW Group is also a long-time partner of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York and has organized long-term projects in collaboration with Tate Modern in London and the National Gallery in Berlin.

Garage helps to promote art and culture and inspire millions of people to discover new things. For BMW Group, which celebrated its centenary in 2016, the partnership with Garage is a wonderful opportunity to support contemporary art. Starting from 2017, BMW Group supports one of the Museum’s main programs, offering Art and Technology grants to contemporary artists.