GARAGE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART PRESENTS:
BUREAU DES TRANSMISSIONS

March 8–May 15, 2019

Bureau des transmissions focuses on the production and circulation of knowledge in a museum setting. The experimental space of the project encourages visitors to look at educational strategies as an integral part of the life of the contemporary museum. Borrowed from the art historian Claude-Hubert Tatot, the original French title—which means “signal office”—refers to a place where important, usually military, information is communicated. Invoking telegraph, radio, fiber optics or any other means of generating vital connectivity, the title suggests that contemporary museums have to be competent in a variety of fields: as well as research centers and incubators for new art they act as platforms for educational experiments. Our prediction is that future museums, like universities, will be organized as campuses, with artists acting as experts and education taking on the role of social activist.

Presented as a forum with artists’ interventions, Bureau des transmissions will function in various modes: as a continuous performance, a program of master classes, and a series of meetings with the artists and educators involved in the project. The full schedule will be announced separately.

Bureau des transmissions brings together Russian and international artists interested in a range of pedagogical practices, whether they are already present in art (artistic research or art therapy) or suggested as ways of rethinking our relationship with museum culture (community engagement or institutional critique).

From the first day of the exhibition, all visitors will be able to take part in Collective Strings, a performance in which Danish artist Karoline H. Larsen invites them to transform the museum space using strings of various colors. Using free movement or through semi-choreographed jumps, visitors can lace structures and objects with thread, thus taking part in a spontaneous interaction and activating the therapeutic energy of collective creative work.

St. Petersburg-based artist Olga Zhitlina uses similar methods. Since 2015 she has been collaborating with migrant activist group Lampedusa in Hamburg to stage the play Translation, which is based on Andrey Platonov’s novella Soul. Zhitlina uses fiction and amateur dramatics to work with trauma. The performance, which imitates a collective interview with asylum seekers, brings together opera enthusiasts, non-professional actors, activists, and other migrants. It mixes non-European languages with fragments of arias from Handel, Mozart, Wagner, and Schubert. Bureau des transmissions presents the Russian premiere of the performance.

Olga Zhitlina and Anna Tereshkina’s Nasreddin in Russia is another project in which artists work with migrant communities. Based on artistic research among Moscow migrants that they began in fall 2018 for Bureau des transmissions, Zhitlina and Tereshkina will publish a new issue of Nasreddin in Russia, a multi-language paper for migrants launched in 2014. It is based on weekly meetings and contests for the best joke in the spirit of Nasreddin Hodja, a character who appears in numerous anecdotes in Islamic cultures. Since the work on the publication is taking place outside of Garage, Bureau des transmissions will feature past issues of the paper and Anna Tereshkina’s original drawings.
Swiss duo microsillons (Marianne Guarino-Huet and Olivier Desvoignes) explore situations of conflict, confrontation, and dissensus, approaching them like tricksters, or perhaps like Nasreddin Hodja. They reject mediation as a solution to conflict and propose what they call "agonistic gallery education" instead. For *Bureau des transmissions*, the duo has developed a participatory project that explores interactions between the museum and its visitors. *The Ladder Café* is based on the concept of the "ladder of citizen participation" developed by Sherry Arnstein in 1969, which described eight strategies that can encourage citizens' involvement in planning and administration. Guarino-Huet and Desvoignes invite visitors to start a dialogue with a Garage educator by picking up one of the mugs placed on the stairs. Every mug features a text or an image suggesting a topic, and the ideas that arise from the ensuing conversation will later become texts or images on other mugs.

Visitors can also play games with Garage educators. *Fireworks and Gunpowder* is a board game invented by artist Kirill Savchenkov. When creating this unique world Savchenkov, like microsillons, was inspired by the 1968 book *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* by Brazilian psychologist Paulo Freire. Players enter the kingdom of non-human agents and try to solve the global and complex issues that we are facing in the post-truth world, acting as a Raccoon, Artificial Intelligence, or the Ocean. *Fireworks and Gunpowder* has several prototypes, including the cooperative game *Pandemic*, where players join forces to combat deadly viruses, and *Collection Deck*, a training game used by the CIA. At *Bureau des transmissions* visitors will see the complete game for the first time in Russia.

Game format is equally important for Linda Vigdorčika, whose work is based on the canonical text about play and culture *Homo Ludens* (1938) by historian, philosopher, and cultural theorist Johan Huizinga, and features elements of masquerade and magic ritual. At Garage, Vigdorčika will run *Translation Wardrobe*, a master class where visitors can make masks of imaginary characters that represent their desires, hopes, and fears.

Other participants include the group Laagency from Colombia, Ekaterina Muromtseva from Moscow, Lera Lerner from St. Petersburg, and Lyubov Shmykova from Perm.

The project is organized by the Museum’s Education and Exhibition departments and marks ten years of education programs at Garage. During this period, Garage has organized numerous lectures, discussions, master classes, and reading groups, and in 2018 the Museum launched a long-term collaboration with the Higher School of Economics in Moscow, which will educate a new generation of museum professionals.

*Curator: Iaroslav Volovod*

*The project is organized with the support of Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia.*

**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 Bakhmetevsky 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.