GARAGE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART PRESENTS:

GARAGE SQUARE COMMISSION: ALLORA & CALZADILLA

GRAFT

May 26–December 1, 2019

In spring 2019, the Puerto-Rico-based duo Jennifer Allora and Guillermo Calzadilla will present their first major solo project in Russia as part of the Garage Square Commission series. Visitors to the park and the Museum will have the unique opportunity to witness the phantom blooming of Roble Amarillo trees (Tabebuia chrysantha), a common native species in the Caribbean. Recreating the delicate yellow flowers of these tropical trees, thousands of artificial blossoms will remain scattered across Garage Square throughout the summer and winter as an enduring reminder of the increasingly rapid disappearance of the planet’s biodiversity.

Graft alludes directly to global climatic transformations. More frequent and violently destructive hurricanes in recent years have been the direct cause of millions of fallen trees in the Caribbean region. Rising global temperatures have added additional pressure to this biodiversity hotspot. The Caribbean, from the days of Christopher Columbus onward, has been systematically exploited and subsequently depleted of much of its original flora and fauna. While deforestation can certainly be said to be the primary legacy of colonialism in the Caribbean, this region, along with the 35 others worldwide named as hotspots (which amount to just 2.4% of the land surface of the earth) support nearly 60% of the world’s plant, bird, mammal, reptile, and amphibian species.

By using an approach that is both poetic and scientific, Allora & Calzadilla create a boundary-transcending installation that provokes a subtle yet powerful visualization of the ecological crisis which we must all collectively confront. In Graft, tropical tree flowers, scattered under the trees on Garage square become phantoms of fallen trees from an elsewhere that haunt the place where they now are present. The uncanny way in which the blossoms appear as both plausible and out of place becomes a potent harbinger for the changing environments that we have created. At the same time the artists seem to insist, by way of this concrete example of a neo-colonial landscape, on the importance of giving visual form to the ways in which a global phenomenon such as climate change is manifest specifically in a particular place, magnifying historic inequalities and injustices.

Creating an experimental body of work since 1995, Allora & Calzadilla’s practice traces the intersections of history, material culture, and politics through a wide variety of mediums, namely performance, sculpture, sound, and video. Their formally unique artistic language is deeply informed by a critical and visionary approach toward meaning-making.

Allora & Calzadilla’s installation will resonate with the themes examined in The Coming World: Ecology as the New Politics 2030–2100, an exhibition exploring important issues around environmentalism and ecology, which will take place at Garage from June 28 to December 1, 2019.

Curator: Snejana Krasteva

ALLORA & CALZADILLA

Jennifer Allora (b. 1974, Philadelphia) and Guillermo Calzadilla (b. 1971, Havana) live and work in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Solo exhibitions have taken place at Serpentine Gallery, London,
Allora and Calzadilla represented the United States at the 54th Venice Biennial in 2011. In 2015, they made the site-specific installation Puerto Rican Light (Cueva Vientos), a Dia Art Foundation commission on the southern coast of Puerto Rico.

The duo has participated in different international group shows including recently at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles (2017); National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MMCA), Seoul (2017); Royal Academy of Arts, London (2016); Hong Kong Arts Center, Hong Kong (2016); Long Museum, Shanghai (2015); Centre Pompidou, Paris (2014); Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2014). They have also participated in dOCUMENTA (13), Kassel (2012); the 1st and 2nd Moscow Biennial of Contemporary Art (2005, 2007); the 51st and 56th Venice Biennales (2005, 2015); the 5th, 7th, and 10th Gwangju Biennials (2004, 2008, 2014); the 24th and 29th São Paulo Biennials (1998, 2010), the 8th & 13th Sharjah Biennials (2007, 2017), and the 2006 Whitney Biennial, New York (2006).

**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 have 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.

In 2018 UNIQLO and Garage launched a joint initiative to support Russian contemporary artists the first participant being the art group MishMash.

**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.