

Curatorial Intensive Participant Bios

Moscow 2014

Rachel Dedman is an independent curator and writer based in Beirut, Lebanon. Rachel is currently curating an exhibition for the Palestinian Museum (Birzeit, West Bank) on Palestinian embroidery, and is about to take up the post of Curator-in-Residence at 98weeks (Beirut) for the next year. She is the first-place winner of the apexart (New York) Franchise Program 2014/15, for which she is presenting *Space between our fingers* in Beirut, 2015. Rachel is currently working on writing and editorial projects with The Mosaic Rooms, Ashkal Alwan and Visualizing Palestine, and has been published by Ibraaz, Culture+Conflict, ArtDiscover and the Journal of Art Historiography. Rachel has curatorial experience with Tate Modern, Art Dubai, Waddesdon Manor and Ben Uri Gallery, among others, and also works as a consultant for Medical Aid for Palestinians. She holds a First-class degree in the History of Art from St. John's College, Oxford, and was the Von Clemm Fellow at Harvard University, 2012-13, where she specialised in contemporary art from the Middle-East. This year she has been a participant of Ashkal Alwan's Home Workspace Program, Beirut.

Naomi Hennig lives in Berlin, where she works as curator, project coordinator, and visual artist. Being involved in alternative education and artist-run initiatives, she has been collaborating in a number of curatorial projects and events, such as CloseUp, a site specific group show in public space as part of the Edinburgh Festival, the D/Effect Academy summer programme with student organisation Interflugs of the Berlin Art University, or the exhibition project *Spaceship Yugoslavia* at NGBK Berlin. She is currently running the exhibitions programme at Galerie im Turm in Berlin.

Ivan Isaev is an independent curator, based in Moscow. He is curator of the independent VITRINA Space at the Centre for Contemporary Art Winzavod, Moscow. He completed the MA program in Math at the People's Friendship University of Russia in 2010. Isaev participated in the Moscow Second Summer Curatorial School by V-A-C Foundation in 2013. He also graduated from UNIC Institute program "Criticism and Curatorship in Contemporary Art" in 2014.

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Kira Kheyfets is an art historian, who graduated from Lomonosov Moscow State University. In 2011 she started working at the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art as an intern in the education department. Since 2012, she has developed the education programs dedicated to the exhibitions, including: *Temporary Architecture of Gorky Park: from Melnikov to Ban* (2012), *Museum of Everything. Exhibition №5* (2013), *Jan Švankmajer's Kunstkammer* and *Nathalie Djurberg and Hans Berg's The Black Pot* (2013). She is now working as a project manager and as an assistant curator of Garage Field Research project. Her research interests include contemporary art, psychology, spiritual practices, cultural mixing and appropriation, modern art theories and practices, and museum history.

Aaron Kohn is the Director of the Museum of African Design (MOAD) in Johannesburg, South Africa. Kohn has connected with artists across the continent and holds a degree in African Studies from Columbia University. In 2012 he founded African Lookbook, a distributor in the United States for young African designers. He relocated to Johannesburg earlier this year to focus on creating the MOAD launch program. A major goal for him has been collaborating with existing cultural institutions in Johannesburg and around the world.

Alexey Korsi graduated from Moscow Institute of Architecture. In 2010 he enrolled in a Moscow school of photography and multimedia named after A. Rodchenko in a course of project photography of Vladimir Kupriyanov. He has curated special projects *Barbarians* and *Semiconductors* of III and IV Moscow International Biennale for Young Art (2012, 2014). Korsi has participated in group and solo exhibitions at E.K.ArtBureau, Open gallery, Triumph gallery, Random gallery, NCCA, MAMM and others. He was nominated for the "Innovation" prize (2012, 2013) and the Kandinsky prize (2013). He lives and works in Moscow.

Boris Kostadinov is an independent curator based in Vienna. He received his Masters from the National Art Academy, Sofia in the Department of History and Theory of Art. His projects are in the field of contemporary art and photography, conceptual design and architecture, sound and interdisciplinary forms. They explore the interaction of art with political and geopolitical realities, economics, social processes and theories: economy of art, art as a social or activist gesture and art as a political platform. The second guideline of his work is art & technology. Such projects are defined by artistic practices that moderate relationships between elite science, future forecasts and social

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consciousness. He has curated recent projects for Radiator Gallery, New York; IG Bildende Kunst Gallery, Vienna; bäckerstrasse4 Gallery, Vienna; Ernst Hilger Gallery, Vienna; Haus Wittgenstein, Vienna; Stephan Stoyanov Gallery, New York; and LOOP Fair, Barcelona. He served as Director for the International Videoart Festival, *Videoarchaeology*, in Sofia. Kostadinov has authored many texts in catalogues and specialized publications.

Vera Roiter is a project manager at the Polytechnic Museum in Moscow. She received her Bachelors and Masters of Philosophy at the National Research University – Higher School of Economics. She previously worked as a project manager and cultural observer for the Prokhorov Charity Foundation and is co-founder of the Soratnik [Companion-in-Arms] Prize, Moscow. She was also a juror for the Caryatid Prize, Nizhny Novgorod.

Maria Stepkina currently lives in Moscow and works at the State Museum and Exhibition Center ROSIZO as coordinator for contemporary art projects. She holds a degree in law from the Moscow State Linguistic University. She also studied art history at the Free University of Berlin from 2011-2013. Parallel to her education in Berlin, she worked at a contemporary art gallery and helped in the participation in the Preview Berlin Art Fair 2013. In her current position, she has curated several exhibitions of young contemporary artists, worked with art history students on an exhibition project, and coordinated an exhibition of recently acquired museum exhibits from 20 Russian museums as part of an international museums festival.

Megan Holly Witko joined Dia Art Foundation in 2012 and currently serves as curatorial associate. She collaborated on the organization and implementation of the large-scale retrospective *Carl Andre: Sculpture as Place, 1958 – 2010* (2014) and *Gramsci Monument* (2013), a site-specific installation in the South Bronx by Thomas Hirschhorn. Prior to joining Dia, Witko was the Director of Andrea Meislin Gallery in Chelsea where she organized exhibitions by Barry Frydlander, Ilit Azoulay and Michal Chelbin, among others. Witko completed her MA in Visual Culture Theory at New York University in 2008 and received a BA in Art History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2006.

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Elena Yaichnikova is a Moscow-based independent curator and art-critic. She studied History, Literature and History of Art in Moscow, and completed an International Curatorial Training Program at the Ecole du Magasin CNAC in Grenoble, France in 2005–2006. Her exhibitions and curatorial projects include *Observations Diary* (Art Re:flex gallery, St. Petersburg, 2013), *Double Vision: Contemporary Art from Japan* (Moscow Museum of Modern Art, 2012), *Generation P: Young Artists from Moscow* (Russenko festival, Paris, France, 2012), *Once Upon a Present* (Gallery SC, Zagreb, Croatia, 2011), *Res publica* in the frame of the France-Russia Year (Moscow Museum of Modern Art, 2010), *40 Lives of One Space*, awarded a prize of the best curatorial project of the Special Program of the 3rd Moscow Biennale (2009), and *Colocation [Living Together]*, a year-long program of exhibitions and public talks at La Box in 2007-2008 (Bourges, France). She was a curator of START project for young artists at Winzavod art center in 2011-2012. She has been working in the educational department of the Moscow Museum of Modern Art since 2013. She is a regular contributor to Russian and occasionally to international art press.

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