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## “Doing Exhibitions Politically”

**The V-A-C Foundation and Russian State University for the Humanities  
present the first edition of the Moscow Curatorial Summer School**

**From: 2 -21 July 2012**

**Programme Director: Viktor Misiano**

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The intensive development of the contemporary art system in Russia has turned the curator into one of the most important and at the same time problematic figures within the Russian cultural context.

What are the professional boundaries and competences of a curator? What are his/her author's rights and professional duties? What are the levels of knowledge and skills that define this new sphere of professional activity? How should this specialized experience be applied and portrayed professionally?

**The Moscow Curatorial Summer School** will become an important step towards answering these questions. The initiative was started by the V-A-C Foundation in partnership with the **Russian State University for the Humanities**, the first Russian institution to introduce curatorial studies as part of their graduate programme at the Department of History of Art. Conceived as an annual programme, the school will open every July and last for three weeks. It will engage leading international and Russian experts in theory, history and curatorial practice. Every year, the theoretical and practical course studies will focus on one specific topic, which will become the central theme of the school and of an educational project, directed by a famous curator.

Students selected to take part in this first edition of the summer school will be chosen on the basis of their applications and the class will consist of 20-25 people. Students will be involved in the preparation of curatorial projects and seminars, while the lectures will be open to the public.

The theme of the first Moscow Curatorial Summer School is «**Doing Exhibitions Politically**», underlining the creative nature and sociopolitical sense of curatorial statements.

The programme director and author of this year's programme concept is contemporary art curator, critic, and theorist **Viktor Misiano**.

For this first edition of the summer school, the outstanding curatorial group WHW have been invited to develop an educational project as part of the

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programme. They have been investigating political agendas and methodologies in their curatorial work for many years. The lectures will be given by a number of theorists and practitioners of contemporary art, including Gregory Sholette, Gerald Raunig, Boris Buden, Olga Kopenkina, Cristina Freire, Lioudmila Voropai, John Roberts, Reesa Greenberg, Société Réaliste, and Dmitry Vilensky.

The idea to set up the school is the result of dialogue and exchange with the Manifesta Foundation which organises the Manifesta European Biennial of Contemporary Art and Manifesta Journal, two internationally recognised initiatives that are crucial to contemporary art theory and practice.

**The Russian State University for the Humanities** is one of the biggest and most established institutions in Russia. The History of Art Department was founded in the beginning of the early 1990s and is recognized as one of Russia's top institutions for arts, culture and museum studies.

**The V-A-C Foundation** is a non-for-profit private institution founded in Moscow in 2009 committed to supporting contemporary art in Russia. Our focus is directed towards contemporary art and cultural practice with the aim of providing a platform for creativity in the wider sense of the word. We strive to be actively engaged in artistic production, rather than the patronage or sponsorship of ongoing artistic processes. V-A-C is deeply committed to the growing importance of art made in Russia as well as the new generations of artists from around the world.

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