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## “This is the Show and the Show is Many Things”

V-A-C Foundation presents the second edition of the  
Moscow Curatorial Summer School

**1 – 20 July 2013**

Programme Director: **Viktor Misiano**

Venue: **Presnya Museum, Moscow**

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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 aims to become an important step towards answering these questions. The initiative was conceived by the V-A-C Foundation in 2012 as an annual programme to open every July and last for three weeks. It engages leading international and Russian experts in theory, history and curatorial practice. Every year, the theoretical and practical course studies focuses on one specific topic, which becomes the central theme of the school and of an educational project, directed by a famous curator.

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

The theme of the first Moscow Curatorial Summer School was “Doing Exhibitions Politically”, underlining the creative nature and sociopolitical sense of curatorial statements. Together with curatorial group WHW (Croatia) students developed three virtual exhibition projects that were represented in the design of exhibition posters.

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In March 2013, the first Moscow Curatorial Summer School was short-listed for the Innovation Prize (a Russian national prize for achievements in contemporary art) in the “Theory, criticism and art history” nomination.

The theme of the second Moscow Curatorial Summer School is «This is the Show and the Show is Many Things», referring to Belgium curator Bart de Baere’s pioneering 1994 exhibition.

The school will focus on many examples of curatorial practice that go beyond the traditional exhibition structure. A combination of lectures and seminars will prove that a curatorial project can be “many things” – social and political activism, collective research, intellectual discussion, group travel, par institutional activity, and much more.

For the second edition of the summer school, the outstanding curatorial and artist group Raqs Media Collective (New Delhi, India) have been invited to develop an educational project as part of the programme.

The programme director is contemporary art curator, critic, and theorist Viktor Misiano.

The author of this year's programme concept is Raqs Media Collective.

“We think”, say Raqs Media Collective, “that exhibition making is always an opportunity to do some thinking. To actually generate a series of lasting thought processes that can have an enduring, as opposed to simply immediate value - not just for art but also for life. You could say that it is to commit oneself to the philosophical deepening of life through art and the way it can be made public. We would like to focus on the expansion of time and thought as two engines and goals for exhibition making. We always work with many references from outside art - from literature, music, science fiction and science to cinema and architecture and of course philosophy and politics, and that is how we would like to structure our contribution to MCSS 2013.”

The lectures will be given by a number of theorists and practitioners of contemporary art, including Bruce Altshuler, Irina Aristarkhova, Bart de Baere, Pascal Gielen, Mary Jane Jacob, Vivana Checchia, Ganalan Nadarajan and Erik Hagoort.

This year’s Moscow Curatorial Summer School honours the memory of Seth Siebelaub.

V-A-C Foundation is a not-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.

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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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