

10 September – 30 October 2016

Vadim Sidur Museum
Novogireevskaya Street, 37A, Moscow

Curated by:
Anna Ilchenko and Yaroslav Alyoshin

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Autumn 2016 marks the beginning of the collaborative research project Human Commonalities in Moscow between the V-A-C Foundation and Moscow Museum and Exhibition Unit 'Manege'.

Human Commonalities is a multidisciplinary project and open discussion dedicated to exploring questions around disability and the arts. It will bring together international specialists from the fields of art, disability studies, education, philosophy, psychology and sociology. The project will consider a wide range of areas including perceptions of contemporary art, possibilities for greater inclusivity in a professional cultural context, alternative frameworks for contemporary artistic practices, and challenges in the current economic and sociopolitical climate.

The project will be carried out with the aid of So-edinenie (Connection), a support fund for deafblind people, and will be hosted by the Vadim Sidur Museum, one of the subdivisions of the Moscow Museum and Exhibition Unit 'Manege'.

Five public roundtable discussions will be held over the course of two months at the Vadim Sidur Museum. They will include Russian and international art theorists, philosophers, educators, psychologists, historians, sociologists, artists and curators. Running concurrently, an exhibition prepared by the V-A-C Foundation and 'Manege' will present works by contemporary artists, as well as works by Sidur.

Human Commonalities will include two performances conceived by Fayen d'Evie (originally developed in collaboration with Sophie Takách and Shelley Lasica) jointly with Irina Povolotskaya. Prologue to Handling [Vadim Sidur] (22 September, 5pm) will take place next to Sidur's abstract work, Structure No1, in front of the Research Institute of Human Morphology in Moscow, with a second performance Tactile Dialogue [Shared Action] (24 September, 5pm) in the Vadim Sidur Museum.

Vadim Sidur was a prominent avant-garde sculptor and a veteran of World War II. The idea behind Human Commonalities was inspired by a historic moment directly connected with Sidur. In the late 1980s, pupils and graduates from the Zagorsky Boarding School for deafblind children made several visits to his studio and museum to gain a tactile experience of his modernist sculptures. This was one of the first initiatives in Russian history dedicated to helping deafblind people access contemporary art.

With the So-edinenie support fund, exhibition tours will be organised for deafblind, deaf and hard of hearing visitors, and blind and partially-sighted visitors.

The participants include Emanuel Almborg, Yuri Albert, Tatiana Basilova, Amanda Cachia, Maria Chekhonadskih, Keti Chukhrov, Fayen d'Evie, Asta Gröting, Simon Hayhoe, Alexander Kondakov, Andrey Maidanskiy, Darrin Martin, David Mitchell, Valery Podoroga, Irina Povolotskaya, Robert McRuer, Sharon Snyder, Alexandra Sukhareva, Alexander Suvorov, Sadie Wilcox, Elena Yarskaia-Smirnova.

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V-A-C FOUNDATION

V-A-C Foundation is dedicated to the international presentation, production and development of Russian contemporary Art — across a multitude of forms and within the framework of an invigorated and informed exhibition, education and publishing programme. Particularly important to the new generation of artists in Russia, V-A-C's focus is on practically supporting and expanding the platform for home-grown talent, giving artists the opportunity to experience, engage with and interrogate international cultural practices whilst developing an authentic and autonomous artistic language. It is deservedly considered as one of the key proponents in opening out contemporary Russian culture to the wider world, and practically supporting and developing emergent artists through finding new international platforms for exhibition and opportunities for commissions as well as ways of encouraging cross-cultural exchange — especially important in the current climate.

V-A-C is currently restoring a historic palazzo in Venice, which will become a permanent exhibition and education space for the foundation from Spring 2017 and work is underway in Moscow to build V-A-C's new headquarters, GES2. A major new site for contemporary art and culture in the city, Renzo Piano Building Workshop have been commissioned to revive and redesign the main building — the GES2 power station built in 1907 — and the surrounding area on the banks of the Moskva River. GES2 is due to open in early 2019.

MOSCOW MUSEUM AND EXHIBITION UNIT 'MANEGE'

Manege is several key cultural platforms in Moscow: Central Manege, New Manege, 'Worker and Kolkhoz Woman' exhibition centre, Vadim Sidur Museum, Nalbandyan Museum-studio and 'Chekhov's house' exhibition hall. Combining in its activity a variety of exhibition projects, an education programme involving leading guest specialists in the fields of art and culture, as well as other formats of additional exhibition work, Manege is oriented toward a wide audience of Moscow's residents and guests.

VADIM SIDUR MUSEUM

Vadim Sidur Museum is the only museum in Moscow devoted to sculpture. It is a contemporary cultural centre outside The Garden Ring. In 2014 it was newly opened after a two-year reconstruction. It currently has regular cinema screenings, contemporary avant-garde and electronic music concerts, lectures by leading art critics and literary evenings.

SO-EDINENIE

'So-edinenie' is a support fund for deafblind people established in Russia in 2014 to provide a channel between the worlds of people who are deafblind and hearing-seeing. The Foundation develops and integrates solutions and practices that help deafblind people to realise their potential. So-edinenie aims to achieve systemic changes in the support and social integration of people with a simultaneous hearing and visual impairment.