

V-A-C Foundation and the GULAG History State Museum present World Rehearsal Court by Judy Radul and A Monument to Please Everyone by Kristina Norman

Process.

Case Studies at the Museum

September 2016 – April 2017

GULAG History State Museum

1-y Samotechniy Pereulok 9, Building 1

Curated by:

Katerina Chuchalina

Anna Ilchenko

Maria Kramar

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This spring, V-A-C Foundation and the GULAG History State Museum present Judy Radul's multi-channel video installation World Rehearsal Court (30 March - 30 April 2017) and a screening of Kristina Norman's film A Monument to Please Everyone (27 April 2017).

The two presentations are the final part of the programme Process. Case Studies at the Museum which looks at ideas around historical representation, from the capacity of objects and images to embody reality and the limitations of the documentary form, to the complexity surrounding the depiction of historic trauma and violence. It is divided into sections which focus on subjects including evidence, hearings, landscape, observation and monuments, and features a range of international contemporary works alongside a series of talks and accompanying newspapers.

Judy Radul explores the performative aspects of the courtroom and the role of theatricality and new technologies in the justice system. Her multimedia installation World Rehearsal Court (2009) is the culmination of two years of research into the judicial processes of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Investigating the role of video observation in the courtroom sessions, and questioning the concept of an unbiased court in an era of mass media imagery, Radul presents a series of pre-recorded courtroom scenes based on trial transcripts.

On 27 April 2017, a one day event will include a screening of Kristina Norman's 2011 documentary film A Monument to Please Everyone, followed by a discussion around the role of memorials in contemporary Russia. Norman's work often explores issues around collective memory and the film looks at Estonian identity through the process of building the country's main national monument - The War of Independence Victory Column.

The 4th newspaper in the series will be published to coincide with the opening of Judy Radul's exhibition and includes two essays, 'Video Chamber' by Radul and 'Marble Columns and Jupiter Lights: Theatrical and Cinematic Modeling of Soviet Show Trials in the 1920s' by Julie A. Cassidy. The publication also features a new interview by Anna Ilchenko with Russian lawyer Kirill Koroteev from Russian historical and civil rights society Memorial. The interview discusses the role of video in the European and Russian courts and how it defines perceptions of historical events.

Process. Case Studies at the Museum aims to highlight themes and intersections of expertise and interest between the art community and historians, archivists and other specialists working in this field and form the basis for an ongoing art and theory platform. It is part of V-A-C's long term programme to introduce contemporary art to non-art museums, as a way of dialoguing with the structure, exploring its identity and contents, and of encouraging many different audiences to engage with contemporary art.

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KRISTINA NORMAN (b.1979) is an artist and documentary filmmaker who studies the problematics of cultural heritage, collective memory and identity. Past works include *Monolith* (2007), *Community* (2008), *After-War* (2009) 0.8 Square Metres (2012) and *Common Ground* (2013). She has participated in major international exhibitions including the 5th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary art (2008), 53rd la Biennale di Venezia (2009) and Manifesta 10 (2014).

JUDY RADUL (b.1962) is an artist and theorist whose practice includes video installation, photography, sculpture and performance. Recent solo exhibitions include *Judy Radul: Closeup, The Breakdown*, Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Kingston (2015); *This is Television*, Daadgalerie, Berlin (2013); *World Rehearsal Court*, Henie Onstad Art Centre, Høvikodden (2011). Recent group exhibitions include *Home Work*, Open Forum, Berlin (2015); *People Things Enter Exit*, Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver (2011); *All That is Solid Melts into Air*, MuHKA, Antwerp (2009). Radul took part in the 8th Berlin Biennale (2014) and the Nicaragua Biennale X (2016). In 2017 she will take part in *Contour Biennale 8*, Mechelen. Radul is a professor at the Simon Fraser University, Vancouver.

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 FOUNDATION will launch Palazzo delle Zattere, its new permanent exhibition and education space in Venice on 10 May, with the international group exhibition *Space Force Construction*. And, following the success of *Geometry of Now*, work is underway at GES-2 in Moscow to build V-A-C's new headquarters. 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 GES-2 power station built in 1907 — and the surrounding area on the banks of the Moskva River.

GULAG HISTORY STATE MUSEUM was founded in 2001 by Anton Antonov-Ovseenko, a well-known historian, writer and public figure, who himself survived 13 years in forced labor camps. The museum collection comprises a documentary archive, letters and memoirs by former GULAG prisoners, their personal belongings and a collection of artworks by former GULAG inmates and contemporary artists offering their own vision of the subject.

GULAG History State Museum's exhibition is dedicated to the history of the rise, development and decline of the Soviet labor camp system, an instrumental and integral part of the Soviet state machinery in the 1930s – 50s, and its political, administrative and economic role.

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23 September - 6 November 2016

Mikhail Tolmachev Pact of Silence (2016).

22 photographs and a 7-channel audio installation

11 November – 11 December 2016

Distinguishing Features

Hito Steyerl Leibniz' Skull (2012). Video, 2-channel installation

Thomas Keenan, Eyal Weizman. Mengele's Skull (2012). Video, installation

16 December, 19.00

Rossella Biscotti - Artist Talk

17 December 2016, 14.00

Rossella Biscotti - The Trial Performance

18 December 2016 – 13 January 2017

Rossella Biscotti The Trial

18 January – 12 March 2017

Urban Fauna Lab. New Leaders of Regional Development (2014). Video installation

3 March 2017, 19.00

Urban Fauna Lab - Artists' Talk

30 March – 30 April 2017

Judy Radul World Rehearsal Court (2009). Multi-channel video installation

27 April 2017

Kristina Norman. A Monument to Please Everyone (2011). Video

Further details of the upcoming programme and artists'
biographies available upon request.