

MEDIA RELEASE

**SERGEY SAPOZHNIKOV: *Total Picture***

**Curated by Francesco Bonami**

**Museo Poldi Pezzoli**

Via Manzoni 12, 20121, Milan, Italy

**17 September – 20 October 2014**

Opening: **15 September 2014, 6.30pm**

**Museo Poldi Pezzoli and V-A-C Foundation** are proud to present an exhibition of photographic works by the emerging Russian artist Sergey Sapozhnikov. Curated by Francesco Bonami and hosted at the Poldi Pezzoli Museum in Milan, this is Sapozhnikov's debut solo show in Italy and his first in a historical museum.

The exhibition features a selection of photographic works combining images of the interiors of the museum from the archives, existing work from the V-A-C collection and a series of dynamic new photographic works shot during Sapozhnikov's residency at the museum.

In his already well known photographs, Sergey Sapozhnikov presents human figures in unusual poses and strange surroundings, twisted in mid-leap or caught in the branches of trees set in empty fields or thick forestry. These photographs, reminiscent of stills from arthouse cinema, each have their own story. Young people are homing in on the outskirts of Rostov-on-Don, the artist's home town, or the back courtyards of private houses, transforming unprepossessing scenes into fantastical spaces with the help of cheap readily-available materials – bright inflatable mattresses, food packaging, gaudy rags, sticky tape, old lids, wooden joists with peeling paint and rusty metal mesh. Bringing an imaginary world to life, they are to some extent investigating its physical laws and, overcoming the forces of gravity, are discovering new possibilities in their own bodies, expressed through the means of photography.

The new work produced by Sapozhnikov for the exhibition is a result of the artist's total immersion in his surroundings, a series of photographs of the museum interiors, in which he plays with detail, proportion and light, together with shots of an architectural structure set up at the foot of the grand staircase, inspired by the traditions of the Russian avant-garde. This modern day 'invasion' of a classical space offers Sergey Sapozhnikov's revolutionary take on Poldi Pezzoli's fascinating interiors and collection of paintings, decorative arts and artifacts.

Curator of the exhibition, Francesco Bonami, adds "In recent times contemporary photography, indulging in digital technology, merged into painting confusing its identity. I believe that Sergey Sapozhnikov is one of few among the current generation of photographers to resist this temptation and yet still focusing on the painterly nature of photography. And, the Poldi Pezzoli project has made his vision even clearer."

A catalogue featuring texts by Francesco Bonami, Giovanna Bertazzoni and Yelena Yaichnikova will be published by V-A-C to accompany the exhibition.

The exhibition is under the patronage of the Lombardia Regional Authorities, the

Municipality of Milan, the Milan Chamber of Commerce, the General Consulate of the Russian Federation and the Italy Russia Association.

**Press contacts:**

**V-A-C Foundation**

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Notes for Editors:

**About V-A-C Foundation**

V-A-C 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 educational 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 emerging 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.

[www.v-a-c.ru](http://www.v-a-c.ru)

**About the Poldi Pezzoli Museum**

The Poldi Pezzoli Museum is a non-profit organisation (ONLUS) founded and opened in 1881 by the collector Gian Giacomo Poldi Pezzoli (1822 -1879).

It is one of the most significant house-museum in Europe and shows the taste of one of the finest collector in the XIX century.

The aristocratic home of nobleman Gian Giacomo Poldi Pezzoli serves as frame for an impressive collection of Renaissance Italian paintings, but also for a unique collection of decorative arts, namely porcelain, glasses, textiles, clocks, jewellery and metalworks.

The Museum is recognised by the Italian State as a national treasure, specialised in the study of the history of collecting and of decorative arts. The museum's research into the collections is ongoing and exhibitions and publications about it are regularly produced. The museum is dedicated to educational studies and has an annual activities programme. Poldi Pezzoli Museum is leader of the Milan House Museum circuit.

[www.museopoldipezzoli.it](http://www.museopoldipezzoli.it)