



EVGENY ANTUFIEV IS DECLARED WINNER OF COLLECTING YOUNG RUSSIAN, ART V-A-C / M HKA 2015

Evgeny Antufiev has been announced as this year's winner of the *Collecting Young Russian Art, V-A-C / M HKA* scheme. The announcement took place on the eve of a one-day exhibition held on 21 October at MEL Space in Moscow, featuring the work of the four Russian artists shortlisted this year: Evgeny Antufiev, Evgeny Granilshikov, Ivan Novikov and Mikhail Tolmachev. A jury consisting of V-A-C Director Teresa Iarocci Mavica, M HKA Director Bart de Baere and guest jury member Vasif Kortun, Director and Curator of the non-profit institution, SALT, Istanbul, chose Siberian artist Evgeny Antufiev, whose work will go to the M HKA collection.

The V-A-C Foundation, Moscow and M HKA Museum of Contemporary Art, Antwerp, have launched the second year of the *Collecting Young Russian Art, V-A-C / M HKA* scheme, set up to support the new generation of artists in Russia and to open up Russian contemporary art to the wider world.

The annual scheme is broken down in different stages: Russian curators and institutions by invitation come up with an initial long-list of who they consider to be the most talented young and emerging artists from their country; They bring the names to the table for discussion and narrow the list down to four finalists, whose details are then passed to the jury to select a winner. Last year's winner was Taus Mahacheva, whose work is now in the M HKA collection.

V-A-C invited the following institutions to participate this year: the Moscow Museum of modern art, National Centre for contemporary arts, Multimedia Art Museum, The State Tretyakov gallery and Garage Museum of Contemporary Art. They put forward the artists: Evgeny Antufiev, Arnold Weber, Evgeny Granilshikov, Arseny Zhilaev, Nastya Kuzmina, Ivan Novikov, Sasha Pirogova and Mikhail Tolmachev.

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Following this, upcoming curators Ivan Isaev, Alexander Ivanov, Nataliya Protassenia, Maria Stepkina, and Anna Zhurba – all of whom participated in this year’s V-A-C Moscow Curatorial Summer School – were invited to look at the long-list, further discuss and make their selection.

The four Russian artists shortlisted and whose work was shown in a one-day exhibition in Moscow are: Evgeny Antufiev, Evgeny Granilshchikov, Ivan Novikov and Mikhail Tolmachev.

The final step was the selection of the jury, who chose Evgeny Antufiev.

Born in Kyzyl, Tuva in 1986, Evgeny Antufiev studied at the Moscow Institute of Contemporary Art. He won the ‘young artist project of the year’ category of the ‘Kandinsky Prize’ in 2009. He has had solo shows across Russia and at the Collezione Marmotti, Reggio Emilia, Italy in 2013 as well as participating in group shows at Monastero del Carmine, Bergamo, Italy (*Contemporary locus 8*, 2014), Palais de Tokyo, Paris (*Garden of Eden*, 2012) and the New Museum, New York (*Ostalgia*, 2011). Marina Dacci, Director at Collezione Maramotti, says of his work, “Antufiev makes constant use of a variety of objects and materials—cloth, crystals, meteorites, bones, hair, teeth, glue, snake skins, insects, marble, wood—that show no immediate relationship to one another, but which fuse with one another within his installations and find themselves transformed: they come to be involved in a process that’s reminiscent of alchemy. The artist is deliberately committed to the use of his own two hands for the realization of everything he does. He sews, embroiders, carves pieces of wood, boils bones and skulls: in the process with which he concerns himself, the realization of the work takes on the value of a rite. Antufiev maintains a close relationship with the culture of the region in which he was born—Siberia—inclusive of the shamanic traditions, which still today remain vital there.”



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

About M HKA

- M HKA is a museum for contemporary art, film and visual culture. It is an open meeting place for art, artists and audiences. M HKA aspires to a leading position within Flanders and an international profile based on the avant-garde tradition of Antwerp. M HKA connects artistic issues and broader societal issues, international and regional perspectives, artists and audiences, tradition and renewal, reflection and presentation. A central concern is working with the collection, which includes acquisitions, maintenance and research. <http://www.muhka.be/en>

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