



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KIRILL GLUSHCHENKO
Our Days are Rich and Bright

Curated by: Katerina Chuchalina
Venue: Polkovaya Street 3, Moscow, Russia
Dates: 29 April – 3 July 2016
Opening: 28 April, from 7pm

The V-A-C foundation is proud to present the first solo show for Moscow based artist Kirill Glushchenko, entitled *Our Days are Rich and Bright*. The exhibition is curated by V-A-C's Head Curator Katerina Chuchalina.

Born in Kaliningrad in 1983, Glushchenko's work sees him as head of a fictional publishing house called 'Glushchenkoizdat', of which he is also the sole employee - a reporter of sorts - who spends his time visiting the towns of the former USSR and Socialist bloc, to write and publish books about them.

Glushchenko's art takes the form of a book, therefore, and the artist himself says "*I love the intimacy that books imply: books are for you alone and give you the feeling that you are being spoken to directly.*" By creating a visual and textual narrative of the towns and villages he visits, the artist retraces the Soviet Union and reconstructs the style of books that were published and mass produced in the late Soviet era to promote new construction, social housing and urban planning in large cities. The artist says that he chooses the places he travels to intuitively and tries to evoke soviet reality during his trips as much as possible, taking regional trains and staying at typical Soviet era hotels, for example. Although the book is the final result, the process itself holds much more meaning.

Our Days are Rich and Bright presents a selection of 'Glushchenkoizdat' books illustrating the aesthetic legacy of the Soviet era preserved in towns as diverse as Pskov, Dresden, Ulyanovsk, Riga, Pärnu, Tallinn and Tartu. Another work featured in the exhibition is a volume of found diaries belonging to a bus driver named Nikolai Kozakov. Glushchenko has chosen to publish Kozakov's diary entries from the year 1962 in the form of a 600-page book covering his daily routine, his love life as well as anecdotes from everyday encounters. We learn that Kozakov graduated from the Moscow University with the hope of becoming a teacher,

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something that never materialised due to a speech impediment. The entries reveal both bleak and heart-warming sides to life in Soviet Union. The diary is brought to life in the form of a sound recording played inside custom-made booths, read by a well-known Soviet presenter whose voice is instantly recognisable. The show also features postcards from the towns the artist has visited and 60s style furniture. A sign with the name of the publishing house 'Glushchenkoizdat' will also be placed on top of the building for the duration of the show.

For many years in Russia, books were used as a strategic cultural product of the country; a symbol of social status of the owner and of the level of importance of State controlled publishing houses. Book design and the printing industry were reinforced by the State Committee for Publishing in the Soviet Union (Goskomizdat) and multiplied by the library system, collectors and the book trade, producing a clean, pristine product in every respect, reflecting the spirit of the times. Publishing houses once occupied large areas of Moscow but unlike other remnants of Soviet cultural production - libraries, cinemas and museums - the publishing system has almost disappeared, leaving little trace of the names or buildings themselves.

Our Days are Rich and Bright will take place at a former Moscow factory in Polkovaya Street, not far from where the publishing houses 'Prosveshchenie' [Enlightenment] and 'Detskaya Kniga' [Children's Books] were located. Entry to the exhibition is free of charge and the space will be open everyday from midday to 9pm.

For further information on V-A-C Foundation, please visit:

www.v-a-c.ru

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Notes to Editors

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.

KIRILL GLUSHCHENKO, b. 1983, Kaliningrad, lives and works in Moscow. Glushchenko has a BA in Economics from the Modern Academy of Humanities, Kaliningrad (2005), going on to study at the Institute of contemporary art, Moscow (2009) and the Valand School of Fine Arts in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Selected group exhibitions: *Detective*, Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Moscow (2014)

The Way of Enthusiasts, Casa Dei Tre Oci, Venice (2012); *Curated by Vest*, Greta Insam Gallery, Vienna; *Inter-iority*, Project Fabrika, Moscow (2011); *From the Realm of the Practical Knowledge*, GMG Gallery, Moscow (2010); *Time Forward?*, Soyuz, Moscow; *Junk*, Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Moscow; *Let Me Think!*, Red October, Moscow; *Art After the End of History*, Central House of Artist, Moscow; *Save as...*, Armyanski 13, Moscow (2009); *Ascii (Galza)*, Kaliningrad art gallery, Kaliningrad; *Kafka 575*, National center of contemporary art, Kaliningrad (2005).