

PRESS RELEASE

January 2010

**TWO MAJOR CONTEMPORARY RUSSIAN SHOWS
OPENING AT THE GARAGE**

5 March – 23 May 2010, Moscow

The Garage Center for Contemporary Culture will showcase new art being created in Russia today in two major exhibitions, both opening on 5 March 2010. ***Futurologia*** explores the legacy of the avant-garde movement of the early 20th century, showing how the work of Kazimir Malevich and his contemporaries continues to influence Russian artists today. ***Russian Utopias*** examines the theme of utopia in Russian art over the last 20 years. Together, the exhibitions will represent the work of over 40 artists and provide a unique insight into two different trajectories of contemporary Russian art.

The pioneering artist Kazimir Malevich is one of the most significant figures of the Russian avant-garde. Malevich founded the Suprematist school of geometric abstract art in 1915, but turned late in his career to a figurative style of painting. ***Futurologia*** examines the influence of the avant-garde by showing the work of Malevich alongside 18 newly commissioned, large-scale works by contemporary Russian artists, which also use both abstraction and figuration.

The exhibition will be shown concurrently with ***Russian Utopias***, which looks at the recurring theme of utopia in Russian art. Showing works by both established and emerging artists spanning the last 20 years, the exhibition demonstrates how the concept of utopia has evolved over time, and has been subject to radically different interpretations from being regarded as an archaeological monument to acting as a vehicle to imagine an alternative future. By tracing the development of these ideas in contemporary art, the exhibition explores how utopian ideals and dreams are an important part of the Russian character and society.

As well as casting new light on the contemporary art scene in Russia, the joint exhibitions offer a chance to view Russian art through both local and international perspectives. In contrast, ***Russian Utopias*** is curated by Yulia Aksenova and Tatiana Volkova, part of a new generation of young curators working in Moscow. In contrast, ***Futurologia*** is curated by internationally renowned French curator Hervé Mikaeloff who has previously curated for Louis Vuitton and Caisse des Dépôts collection.

Futurologia and ***Russian Utopias*** are part of Année France – Russie 2010, the cultural exchange between Russia and France.

List of artists:

Futurologia artists include: Kazimir Malevich (kindly lent by the MMoma Collection, Moscow), Afrika (Sergei Bugaev), Victor Alimpiev, Petr Belyi, Olga Chernysheva, Electroboutique (Alexei Shulgin, Aristarkh Chernyshev and Roman Minaev), Gaponov & Koteshov, Olga Kisseleva, Irina Korina, Diana Machulina, Andrei Molodkin, Pavel Pepperstein, Ivan Plusch, Recycle group (Andrey Blokhin and Georgy Kuznetsov) Aidan Salakhova and Sergei Bratkov

Russian Utopias will feature work by: ABC group, Viacheslav Akhunov, Yuri Avvakumov, Kirill Ass and Anna Ratafieva, Blue Noses group, Alexander Brodsky, Dmitry Bulatov and Alexei Chebikin, Alexei Buldakov, Dmitry Bylningin, Cloud Commission group, Dmitry Gutov, Iced Architects group, Inspection Medicine Hermeneutique group, Igor Makarevich and Elena Elagina, Alexei Kallima, Oleg Kulik, Dmitriy Korobkov, Valery Koshliakov, Andrei Kuzkin, Dmitry Prigov, Nikolai Polissky, PG group, Avdei Ter-Oganian, Boris Orlov, Stas Shuripa, Sergei Shutov, Haim Sokol, Natalia Struchkova, Where the Dogs Run group and Arseniy Zhilyaev

Exhibition details:

Futurologia and **Russian Utopias**

5 March – 23 May 2010

Garage Center for Contemporary Culture

19A Ulitsa Obrastsova

Moscow, Russia

Tel: +7 495 645 0520

www.garageccc.com

Gallery opening hours: Mon - Thurs: 11am - 9pm, Fri – Sun: 11am - 10pm

Russian Utopias will be re-hung during April, dates to be announced.

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RUSSIA

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Garage Center for Contemporary Culture is a major non-profit international arts space based in Moscow, dedicated to exploring and developing contemporary culture. The center presents a program of exhibitions by international and Russian artists and serves as a catalyst and meeting point for Moscow's emerging arts scene. Housed in the masterpiece of 20th century Russian architecture – the former Bakhmetevsky Bus Garage – designed in 1926 by the Constructivist architect Konstantin Melnikov.

The Garage also hosts special on-site events including talks, film screenings, performances and creative activities for children. Since the Garage opened in 2008, exhibitions have included *A Certain State of the World?* - selected works from the François Pinault Foundation; Antony Gormley's *Domain Field* and most recently, the Third Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art - *Against Exclusion* by French curator Jean-Hubert Martin.

The Garage will reopen this year with newly created museum-standard exhibition spaces, café, purpose-built auditorium and member's space designed by award-winning architect Jamie Fobert. The new spaces will also be built within the vast constructionist Melnikov garage, allowing the center to host new events and learning experiences.

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The Garage is a project of the Iris Foundation.