

MANIFESTA 10

The European Biennial of Contemporary Art

28 June – 31 October 2014
St. Petersburg, Russia
The State Hermitage Museum

Press release

28 June 2014, in St. Petersburg

MANIFESTA 10

After many months of planning MANIFESTA 10 will finally open to the public on Saturday, 28 June 2014, in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Some considered the choice of St. Petersburg controversial, however Manifesta believes that engaging with Russia at this time is important and necessary. Over the coming 125 days, MANIFESTA 10 will present the art of our times, featuring some of the world's most renowned contemporary artists, across several venues in the Hermitage Museum and at locations within the city of St. Petersburg. More than 500,000 people are expected to attend.

In the lead up many new commissions have been created and artworks installed also respond to the encyclopedic collection and history of the State Hermitage Museum. Numerous artists have also responded to the sociopolitical context of contemporary Russia. With over 50 artists participating, notable projects include Thomas Hirschhorn's fourteen-meter high installation, in which living spaces spill out into the inner courtyard of the new General Staff Building; Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster's operatic ensemble of handkerchiefs on a huge scale proportional to the interiors of the new modern and contemporary wing; and Rineke Dijkstra's video portrait of a young ballerina, which memorializes St. Petersburg's culture of dance and gymnastics. Yasumasa Morimura pays special tribute to the history of the Hermitage by recreating scenes recorded by two artists who documented "the Hermitage's wounds" during the siege of Leningrad.

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Prof. Mikhail Piotrovsky,
Director General of The State Hermitage Museum
said of MANIFESTA 10:

“Under Kasper König’s curatorial direction, MANIFESTA 10 provides an inspiring, challenging, beautiful, and critical exhibition. It has come together in a significant time and place — St. Petersburg in 2014. We are delighted to welcome MANIFESTA 10 along with the many artists who have created works that will enchant and engage visitors to the Museum in this, our 250th anniversary year.”

Hedwig Fijen,
Founding Director of Manifesta said:

“This edition of Manifesta has been born from a Shakespearean dilemma and questions about whether to engage or disengage, and stands for the spirit of independence and expression that informed its beginnings. It is also partly inspired by Russian artists, writers, and intellectuals; past and present, who it stands by. While our work may be conducted in realms of debate, negotiation, mediation, and diplomacy, it has achieved its result: providing a exhibition spaces for art to provide criticality, complexity and nuance.”

MANIFESTA 10 is curated by **Kasper König,**
who says of the exhibition:

“MANIFESTA 10 is a complex entity and one that invites both its artists and visitors to assume their own positions, raise questions, and indeed voices. It runs the gamut of the intricacy and contradiction that art has to offer, and shows us the ways that art can provoke engagement while opposing the simplifications of our times. I believe that the presence of critical contemporary art in the Hermitage and in the city will contribute to pluralistic and healthy debate on complexity, ethics, and aesthetics and also produce conditions for us to deeply consider and challenge ourselves. I congratulate the artists on their achievements and express my gratitude to Prof. Mikhail Piotrovsky for his generosity, camaraderie, and vision.”

MANIFESTA 10

MANIFESTA 10 branches out further into the city of St. Petersburg via the performances, exhibitions, and events comprising the Public Program, curated by Joanna Warsza, and through its Education and Mediation Programs, created by Sepake Angiama. Unlooped — KINO, the official film program of MANIFESTA 10 devised by Nathalie Hoyos and Rainald Schumacher from Office for Art (Berlin), presents over seventy individual time-based (film and video) works from 1970 to the present.

The Biennial's Education and Mediation Program provides opportunities for visitors to engage with MANIFESTA 10 and learn more about the art of today through free, guided tours and other activities. Of its anticipated 500,000 visitors, Manifesta expects up to 40,000 people will engage with its education programs: an important element of the events' legacy.

Initiated by Manifesta and realized in collaboration with The Hermitage Museum XXI Century Foundation, a Parallel Program made up of over 60 events will take place around St. Petersburg, involving over 250 artists and cultural practitioners. A series of independent events specifically devised for, or coinciding with, the dates of the Biennial, this Program provides a platform for the local art community in order to support and promote local artistic and cultural life to regional, national, and international audiences.

Manifesta is honored to be a guest of the Hermitage Museum and the City of St. Petersburg, bringing contemporary art into one of the largest and most prestigious museums in the world.

Public program

The Public Program will critically respond to the current sociopolitical circumstances, its conflicts and complexities, and the place of art within them. A series of time-based projects will intervene in the city of St. Petersburg and its cultural, historical, and social complexity with context-responsive commissions and debates, events, pop-up shows, and discursive platforms, as an integral part of the exhibition. The program engages with the urgency of unfolding geopolitical circumstances.

The invited artists mostly originate from cities of post-Soviet and post-communist Europe, including Vilnius, Tallinn, and Kiev. These cities are all accessible by train from St. Petersburg's Vitebsk Station, which will be a key venue for the Public Program as the first train hub in Russia to connect the East and West — its name referring to the famous city of the early twentieth-century Russian avant-garde.

The Public Program also refers to the role of the private, the public, and their respective social and political contexts during the Soviet era, as well as in the current post-Soviet condition and geopolitical situation. During the Soviet Period, "public" (understood as a critical exchange of free ideas) almost exclusively took place at home universities, secret political gatherings, and through inner emigration and apartment exhibitions — where unofficial, nonconformist, engaged art was hosted as a form of resistance.

Education program

The Education Program promotes looking, questioning, and the sharing of experiences. Working locally, regionally, and internationally, MANIFESTA 10 engages with schools, universities, local communities, and St. Petersburg residents with the aim of deepening the experience of visiting the Biennial. Education programs include mediated tours, special events, workshops, and discussions, designed to generate a platform for dialogue and debates about the role that art can play within society.

In the State Hermitage Museum, the Education Program provides opportunities for visitors to encounter the historical collection of the Winter Palace collection and to be engrossed by the contemporary artworks presented in the General Staff Building.

Throughout the Biennial, the Education Program investigates methods of communicating with one another and explores how contemporary art can generate new conversations. It aims to discuss such questions as: in what ways can a public engage with a biennial? How does contemporary art contribute to daily life? Where are the spaces in which we come together and discuss our experiences?

Participating artists

Francis Alÿs

Born 1959 in Antwerp, Belgium
Lives and works in Mexico City, Mexico

Guy Ben-Ner

Born 1969 in Ramat Gan, Israel
Lives and works in Tel Aviv, Israel

Joseph Beuys

Born 1921 in Krefeld, Germany
Died 1986 in Düsseldorf, Germany

Karla Black

Born 1972 in Alexandria, Scotland
Lives and works in Glasgow, Scotland

Louise Bourgeois

Born 1911 in Paris, France
Died 2010 in New York, USA

Pavel Braila

Born 1971 in Chi in u, Moldova
Lives and works in Berlin, Germany and Chi in u, Moldova

Marc Camille Chaimowicz

Born 1946 in Paris, France
Lives and works in London, UK and Burgundy, France

Jordi Colomer

Born 1962 in Barcelona, Spain
Lives and works in Barcelona, Spain and Paris, France

Josef Dabernig

Born 1956 in Kötschach-Mauthen, Austria
Lives and works in Vienna, Austria

Lado Darakhvelidze

Born 1977 in Kutaisi, Georgia
Lives and works in Arnhem, Netherlands

Rineke Dijkstra

Born 1959 in Sittard, Netherlands
Lives and works in Amsterdam, Netherlands

Marlene Dumas

Born 1953 in Cape Town, South Africa
Lives and works in Amsterdam, Netherlands

Nicole Eisenman

Born 1965 in Verdun, France
Lives and works in New York, USA

Lara Favaretto

Born 1973 in Treviso, Italy
Lives and works in Turin, Italy

Vadim Fishkin

Born 1965 in Penza, USSR
Lives and works in Ljubljana, Slovenia

Katharina Fritsch

Born 1956 in Essen, Germany
Lives and works in Düsseldorf, Germany

Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster

Born 1965 in Strasbourg, France
Lives and works in Paris, France and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Ann Veronica Janssens

Born 1956 in Folkestone, UK
Lives and works in Brussels, Belgium

Thomas Hirschhorn

Born 1957 in Bern, Switzerland
Lives and works in Paris, France

Alevtina Kakhidze

Born 1973 in Zhdanivka, Ukraine
Lives and works in Muzychi, Ukraine

Ragnar Kjartansson

Born 1976 in Reykjavík, Iceland
Lives and works in Reykjavík, Iceland

Elena Kovyлина

Born 1971 in Moscow, USSR
Lives and works in Moscow, Russia

Maria Lassnig

Born 1919 in Carinthia, Austria
Died 2014 in Vienna, Austria

Klara Lidén

Born 1979 in Stockholm, Sweden
Lives and works in Berlin, Germany

Erik van Lieshout

Born 1968 in Deurne, Netherlands
Lives and works in Rotterdam, Netherlands

Vladislav Mamyshev-Monroe

Born 1969 in St. Petersburg (then Leningrad), USSR
Died 2013 in Bali, Indonesia

Henri Matisse

Born 1869 in Le Cateau-Cambrésis, France
Died 1954 in Nice, France

Boris Mikhailov

Born 1938 in Kharkov, Ukraine
Lives and works in Kharkov, Ukraine and Berlin, Germany

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Yasumasa Morimura

Born 1951 in Osaka,
Japan
Lives and works
in Osaka, Japan

Olivier Mosset

Born 1944 in Bern,
Switzerland
Lives and works in
Tucson, USA

Juan Muñoz

Born 1953 in Madrid,
Spain
Died 2001 in Ibiza, Spain

Deimantas Narkevičius

Born 1964 in Utena,
Lithuania
Lives and works
in Vilnius, Lithuania

Bruce Nauman

Born 1941 in Fort
Wayne, USA
Lives and works in New
Mexico, USA

Tatzu Nishi

Born 1960 in
Nagoya, Japan
Lives and works in Tokyo,
Japan and Berlin,
Germany

Kristina Norman

Born 1979 in
Tallinn, Estonia
Lives and works
in Tallinn, Estonia

Timur Novikov

Born 1958 in St.
Petersburg (then
Leningrad), USSR
Died 2002 in
St. Petersburg, Russia

Henrik Olesen

Born 1967 in Esbjerg,
Denmark
Lives and works in Berlin,
Germany

**Ilya Orlov and Natasha
Kraevskaya**

Born 1973 in
St. Petersburg (then
Leningrad), USSR
Born 1972 in
St. Petersburg (then
Leningrad), USSR
Live and work in
St. Petersburg, Russia

Pavel Pepperstein

Born 1966 in Moscow,
USSR
Lives and works
in Moscow, Russia
Susan Philipsz
Born 1965 in
Glasgow, Scotland
Lives and works in Berlin,
Germany

**Giovanni Battista
Piranesi**

Born 1720 in Mogliano
Veneto, Italy
Died 1778 in Rome, Italy

Alexandra Pirici

Born 1982 in Bucharest,
Romania
Lives and works in
Bucharest, Romania

Paola Pivi

Born 1971 in Milan,
Italy Lives and works
in Delhi, India

Gerhard Richter

Born in 1932 in Dresden,
Germany
Lives and works
in Cologne, Germany

Wael Shawky

Born 1971 in
Alexandria, Egypt
Lives and works
in Alexandria, Egypt

Slavs and Tatars

Founded 2006, Eurasia

Alexandra Sukhareva

Born 1983 in Moscow,
Russia
Lives and works
in Moscow, Russia
and Dubna, Russia

Wolfgang Tillmans

Born 1968 in
Remscheid, Germany
Lives and works in Berlin,
Germany

Joëlle Tuerlinckx

Born 1958 in
Brussels, Belgium
Lives and works
in Brussels, Belgium

Otto Zitko

Born 1959 in Linz,
Austria Lives and works
in Vienna, Austria

20 years of Manifesta

About Manifesta

Manifesta was conceived in the early 1990s in The Netherlands as a nomadic, European biennial of contemporary art, responding to the new social, cultural and political reality that emerged in the aftermath of the Cold War. Formed from the desire to explore the psychological and geographical territory of Europe and provide a dynamic platform for cultural exchange throughout the region, it takes place every two years in a different European city. Along with the Venice Biennale and documenta in Kassel, Manifesta is one of the foremost art events in Europe. Beyond the anniversaries of both Manifesta and the Hermitage Museum, this year's Biennial also acknowledges the 20 years of work by Hedwig Fijen as Director of Manifesta; having developed the Biennial from its beginnings in the nineties to its current status as one of the leading events of its kind internationally. Fijen says of her work: «I am thankful that I have been allowed to work over the last two decades with a generation of artists and curators who have over the years inspired more than one million visitors and, at times, supported Manifesta through challenging circumstances.»

Manifesta History

Manifesta 1 (1996) was held across 16 museums and 36 public spaces in Rotterdam, The Netherlands curated by Katalyn Neray (Budapest), Rosa Martínez (Barcelona), Viktor Misiano (Moscow), Andrew Renton (London), and Hans Ulrich Obrist (London).

Manifesta 2 (1998) took place in five museums and art venues, and public spaces in Luxembourg. It was curated by Robert Fleck (Düsseldorf), Maria Lind (Stockholm), and Barbara Vanderlinden (Brussels).

Manifesta 3 (2000), curated by Francesco Bonami (New York/Turin), Ole Bouman (Rotterdam/Shenzhen), Mária Hlavajová (Amsterdam/Utrecht), and Kathrin Rhomberg (Berlin/Vienna) presented artists, artists' collectives, urban planners and architects over three main venues in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Manifesta 4 (2002), held in Frankfurt/Main, Germany was curated by Iara Boubnova (Sofia), Nuria Enguita Mayo (Valencia), and Stéphanie Moïsson Trembley (Paris).

Manifesta 5 (2004), curated by Massimiliano Gioni (Milan/New York), Marta Kuzma (Venice/Stockholm)

was held in Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain and engaged with the region's strong Basque identity, representing a shift in Manifesta's identification with an "East-West" discourse, towards achieving an equally strong "North-South" balance in its activities.

Manifesta's planned, 6th edition, by Anton Vidokle, May Abu El Dahab and Florian Waldvogel was to take the form of an experimental art school in Nicosia, Cyprus. Its cancellation deepened Manifesta's awareness of the sensitivities of engaging with local political contexts and contested regions.

Manifesta 7 (2008) in two regions: Sud Tyrol and Trento, Italy curated by Adam Budak (Washington), Anselm Franke (Berlin), Hila Peleg (Berlin), and the Raqs Media Collective (New Delhi), focused not only on one city, but on an entire regional territory and its context of managing diversity.

Manifesta 8 (2010) in Dialogue with Northern Africa, took place in the host cities of Murcia and Cartagena in southeast Spain, on 14 venues, curated by three independent curatorial collectives: Alexandria Contemporary Arts Forum (ACAF); the Chamber of Public Secrets (CPS), with members based in the UK, Egypt, Italy, Lebanon, and Denmark; and tranzit.org, a group of autonomous initiatives in Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, and Romania.

Manifesta 9 (2012) called 'The Deep of the Modern' was held at the former Waterschei mine in Genk, Belgium, curated by Cuauhtémoc Medina (Mexico City), in association with Katerina Gregos (Brussels), and Dawn Ades (London). This edition created for the first time a complex dialogue between different layers of art, heritage and history.

Manifesta 11 will take place in Zürich, Switzerland in 2016.

Tours

Free tours

Every day of the Biennial, free tours take place in the General Staff Building at 12 p.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m., available to visitors with a valid Hermitage Museum entrance ticket (subject to capacity). No reservation is required. Join the dialogue on contemporary art and discover the stories behind MANIFESTA 10. Mediation within the context of MANIFESTA 10 is rooted in the understanding that looking at and experiencing art generates multiple perspectives which, when shared, can shift our perspective on what we see. Through guided tours, mediators aim to create a space for exchange and dialogue in the company of artworks, initiating conversations within the State Hermitage Museum that continue outside in the city of St. Petersburg.

Free of charge with a valid entrance ticket.

Max. 25 participants (*first come first serve).

Tuesday to Sunday at 12 p.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m.
Wednesday additional tour at 6 p.m.

Duration: 1.5 hours

All tours are available in Russian or English

Groups tours

Groups visiting MANIFESTA 10 are encouraged to sign-up for a personal introductory tour based on their interests and background. Suitable for students, teachers, international visiting and museum groups, and other special interest groups, in-depth tours of the General Staff Building are led by Mediators who provide opportunities for participants to share views on the Biennial with a group interested in getting an insight into the artistic concept.

Tours can be pre-booked and are available daily in Russian and English from 10:30 a.m. until 4 p.m., and Wednesdays until 7 p.m. (except on Mondays, when the State Hermitage Museum is closed).

Each group must contain a minimum of 10 people and maximum of 25 people per guide.
Groups are required to book at least 10 days in advance.

1. Each group must contain a minimum of 10 people and maximum of 25 people per guide.

2. Groups are required to book at least 10 days in advance. To book please call +7 812 416 12 72 or email: karinakalimullina@manifesta.org

Please note. For tours of Winter Palace, which houses about a third of the exhibition, separate tours are available. Please contact the Hermitage booking office for tickets, prices and information: +7 812 571 84 46.

Manifesta 10 catalog

The exhibition catalog is published by Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König in English and Russian editions. It includes contributions by major figures in art criticism and curating, such as Helmut Draxler and Silvia Eiblmayr, as well as short sections on each exhibiting artist.

Catalog voucher

The enclosed voucher provides a 50% discount off the r.r.p. to accredited media.

Exchange this voucher to purchase one catalog only.

Russian language catalog: 500 Rubles
(50% discount)

English language catalog: 700 Rubles
(50% discount: 15 Euros equivalent)

Thank you

Manifesta 10 partners

The projects and programs initiated and realized by the participating artists and other contributors to this edition of Manifesta have been generously supported by a network of partnerships in St. Petersburg, Russia, Europe, and across the world.

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